



MOSAIC OF LIFE

Class 12 student turns discarded construction waste into mosaic creations, helps create livelihood for domestic abuse survivors

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REMOTE ACCESS

Nearly a decade after police launched country's first 'Remote FIR Centre' in B'loru, citizens are calling for its revival

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With 26,854 cases already this year, Bengaluru is recording higher number of drink & drive cases as compared to 2024 — is it better enforcement or just that we cannot kick the habit?

BEHIND THE SPINNING WHEEL

Weekday checks increased over past 2 months

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The city has recorded a sharp rise in drunk and drive (DD) cases this year, surpassing last year's total even before the year has ends. According to statistics from the Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP), while 23,620 cases were reported in 2024, the number has already climbed to 26,854 this year, indicating a worrying upward trend in the city's road safety violations.

Last year, enforcement data showed relatively moderate figures, with 1,089 cases booked in January, 1,074 in February, 888 in March, 1,224 in April, 1,158 in May, 850 in June, and 971 in July. However, the 2025 data shows a different picture. As per the BTP dashboard until July 2025, 3,511 cases were recorded in January, followed by 2,888 in February, 3,467 in March, 2,663 in April, 2,622 in May, 3,128 in June, and 3,033 in July all significantly higher than last year's corresponding months.

DCP (Traffic East) Sahil Bagla told Bangalore Mirror, "We have been booking cases throughout the

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FILE PHOTO

“Generally, within city limits, checks are conducted from 10.30 pm onwards, while in border station limits, enforcement is carried out between 8.30 pm and 10.30 pm

—Traffic police official

Not out of the woods

Success rate of trees transplanted over last 2 years by K-RIDE stands at 54%



PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

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Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Company Limited (K-RIDE)'s recent report on the condition of translocated trees from its various sites of the Suburban Rail Project shows that nearly half of the trees moved and replanted are struggling to survive.

As per K-RIDE's quarterly reports (January to September 2025), the success rate of trees transplanted over the last couple of years is barely 54%.

The translocation report for the first quarter (January to March) has recorded an overall success rate of 55%. In the second quarter (April to June), a little over 55% of the trees examined have exhibited some signs of survival. The report for the July to September period noted a survival rate of 52%.

Between January and March this year, 61 trees that were translocated based on an official memorandum issued by the tree expert committee in 2022 and 2023 were surveyed. Out of these, while 34 trees have survived, 27 have not shown any signs of survival. Between April and June, 61 trees translocated

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THINGS TO DO

01 Playful minds



Eklavya School invites children aged 2-10 and their families to the Eureka

Eklavya Festival, a day of hands-on fun, creativity, and learning. Highlights include the Prani Pet Sanctuary, RAD Drum Circle, storytelling by Aarthi Kathpalia, pottery with Dhanya Verghese, block printing, music sessions, expressive arts, temporary tattoos, and interactive workshops by Eklavya educators. **Where:** Eklavya Early Years, Yelahanka; **When:** November 8, 10 am to 4 pm

02 Lyrical voyage



Experience soulful, reflective poetry by Padmini at India's longest-running poetry night event, featured in the Limca Book of Records 2016. For over 14 years, it has showcased moving poetry, music, and art, creating unforgettable cultural experiences. **Where:** Urban Solace, Annaswamy Mudaliar Road; **When:** October 21, 7:30 to 9 pm

03 Eco reflections

India's greenest circular music festival is running a city-wide E-Waste Collection Drive. Donate small IT, electronics, and electrical items to earn festival passes and see your waste transformed into art installations. **Collection points:** Social outlets at Hebbal, Church Street, Koramangala, Indiranagar; **When:** October 18 to November 2

04 Patterned heritage

Celebrate India's handloom and craft heritage at The Grand Rajasthani Exhibition. Explore Bandhani fabrics, handlooms, jewellery, paintings, carpets, and more by master artisans. **Where:** Sri Someshwara Sabha Bhavana, JP Nagar; **When:** until October 22, 10:30 am to 8 pm



05 Mindful living

Bengaluru's biggest festival for mindful living returns. Explore 110+ sustainable brands across fashion, wellness, food, home, and culture. Enjoy workshops like Pilates, Vinyasa Yoga, a morning run by Namma Weekend, and live music by Bharghav and Kunal Singh. **Where:** Jayamahal Palace Exhibition Centre, Nandi Durga Road Extension; **When:** November 15 to 16

Teen transforms rubble into art, empowering abuse survivors

Student-led programme supports domestic abuse survivors creatively

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Amid Bengaluru's growing skyline and piles of construction debris, Kashika Reddy, a Class 12 student, is driving change. She has found a way to merge art, sustainability, and social impact. Through her initiative, Samagra, she transforms discarded construction waste into beautiful mosaic creations and, in the process, empowers survivors of domestic abuse to rebuild their confidence and livelihoods—one tile at a time.

The idea behind Samagra is simple but transformative: by collecting leftover or broken tiles from local construction sites and tile vendors—materials that would otherwise end up in landfills—she turns them into handcrafted mosaic décor. "These are then cleaned, sorted by colour and texture, and cut into smaller fragments. I train the women in basic mosaic techniques, from pattern layout to grouting, and we transform the tiles into terracotta mosaic pots and wall art. Each piece is handmade and unique, symbolising renewal and resilience. What begins as waste ends up as functional, sustainable décor," said Kashika, a resident of Koramangala.

She founded Samagra in early 2024, born out of her passion for both sustainability and social change. "Samagra was born out of two things I deeply care about: sustainability and social change. I've always loved making art, and when I saw the



Survivors of domestic abuse learn mosaic techniques at Samagra Studio, turning waste tiles into unique décor

sheer amount of construction waste lying around sites in Bengaluru, I began wondering if it could be repurposed creatively. The idea of turning what's usually seen as rubble into something beautiful—and empowering women in the process—felt powerful," she said.

She explained that the collective is built around three core pillars that reflect its vision. Samagra Studio serves as a creative hub where survivors of domestic abuse learn to transform construction waste into high-value mosaic art and décor. The studio also collaborates with schools to teach students about sustainability and circular economy principles through hands-on workshops. Samagra Showcase acts as a marketplace, bringing

Kashika Reddy's initiative, Samagra, converts leftover tiles into handcrafted mosaics, teaching survivors creative skills, building confidence, and creating income opportunities

the women's creations to a wider audience, with sales facilitated through interior design firms, artisan markets, and conscious consumers. Meanwhile, the Samagra Seed Fund reinvests proceeds from product sales into micro-grants for survivors, helping them start small businesses and move towards financial independence.

For Kashika, working with survivors of domestic abuse has been one of the most rewarding parts of the project. "Many of the women we work with have faced situations that left them feeling powerless and financially dependent. Through Samagra, they're not just learning an art form but also rebuilding self-worth. The process of creating something tangible—something that people value—helps restore their confidence and sense of agency. We support them by providing hands-on mosaic art training, followed by opportunities to earn directly through the sale of our products at artisan markets, sustainable pop-ups, and via bulk orders from interior design firms we partner with. We have also established a seed fund using additional earnings and external contributions to support these survivors in their financial endeavours and help them achieve long-term economic stability," she said.

Bengaluru generates 3,500-4,000 tonnes of construction and demolition waste daily, highlighting the need for innovative solutions. "Government systems alone can't solve this. Youth-led initiatives bring creativity and community engagement. Small actions—upcycling waste into art or promoting sustainable materials—can change mindsets. Waste should be seen as a resource, not trash. If more young people act, sustainability can become a culture," said Kashika.

Kashika's mosaic project trains women, partners with NGOs, and plans market, online, and public expansions.

Pay delays push lecturers to odd jobs

Guest lecturers working at several Pre-University Colleges in Karnataka have taken up part-time work due to a four-month delay in government salaries. Despite being appointed to 74 new colleges this academic year and promised an honorarium of ₹14,000, the finance department has not released funds under the required budget head, leaving lecturers struggling to cover their living expenses. Many have taken on evening jobs in supermarkets, pani puri stalls, sweet shops, coaching centres, or as private tutors, using the extra income to pay rent and sustain themselves. Officials have confirmed that salary lists have been sent to the finance department and formal requests submitted, but until the arrears are cleared, guest lecturers continue to depend on part-time work to make ends meet. — BMB

PG seats skyrocket: 2,116 total this year

Guest lecturers working at several PThe National Medical Commission (NMC) has sanctioned 422 additional postgraduate (PG) medical seats in state-run medical colleges for the academic year 2025-26. Announcing this, Dr Sharanprakash R Patil, Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development, Livelihood and Raichur District In-charge, said the new seats span pre-clinical, para-clinical and clinical disciplines, with over 20 departments — including Paediatrics, Anaesthesiology, Forensic Medicine and Microbiology — benefiting from the expansion. Dr Patil said the government had sought approval for 572 seats, of which 422 have been cleared. "Last year, we had 1,694 PG seats. With this year's addition, the total will rise to 2,116," he said. He further highlighted that the NMC has also approved an increase of 450 undergraduate seats in the state. — BMB

Super-specialty care comes to standstill

Lakhs of industrial workers and their families across Karnataka are struggling to access advanced medical treatment after the state government failed to renew its agreement with private hospitals under the Employees' State Insurance (ESI) scheme. The pact, which allowed ESI beneficiaries to receive secondary and super-specialty care in empanelled private hospitals, expired on September 30, leaving patients stranded from October 1.

Sources said that although 11 ESI hospitals and 113 dispensaries continue to provide basic healthcare under the

central government's purview, key secondary care services — including child health, post-surgery recovery, pain management, maternity care, orthopaedic treatments, and specialised surgeries — have come to a standstill. Karnataka has over 1.39 crore ESI beneficiaries, including nearly 35 lakh employees from more than one lakh private firms and factories.

The lapse has hit workers in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Belagavi, Mangaluru, Hubballi, Kalaburagi, and Davanagere, among other cities, forcing them to turn to private hospitals at their own expense. Labour Minister Santosh Lad said, "I have instructed officials to continue providing medical services until fresh tenders are finalised, but for now." — BMB

Public property use curbed

The Karnataka government on Saturday made prior permission mandatory for private organisations or groups to use any government property for events, programmes, or processions. The move follows a cabinet decision requiring approval for government schools, colleges, and public spaces. Citing unauthorised use and poor maintenance, authorities said such activities harm public properties. Under the new rules, prior written permission must be sought at least three days in advance from the deputy commissioner, police commissioner, or authorised officer, who may consult relevant departments. — PTI

Grab your helmets to enjoy fireworks

Ophthalmologists from Minto Eye Hospital have urged Bengaluru residents to wear helmets, preferably full-face helmets with visors, while lighting firecrackers this Deepavali to prevent eye injuries. Despite a decline in firecracker use due to stricter regulations, doctors report that thermal, mechanical, and chemical injuries to the eyes continue, often affecting both the person lighting the firecrackers

and innocent bystanders, particularly children. Many of these injuries, they emphasise, are preventable with simple safety measures.

The doctors advise using open spaces for fireworks, following the instructions on the boxes, keeping children under supervision, using long agarbattis for lighting, and never putting the face in line with the cracker. In case of an eye injury, they warn against washing, rubbing, or

self-medicating the eye and recommend gently covering it and seeking immediate medical attention. "With helmets readily available and now mandatory in Bengaluru, ophthalmologists say this simple precaution can significantly reduce the risk of serious eye injuries during festive celebrations. For emergencies, Minto Eye Hospital can be contacted at 080-26707176 or 080-26706221," said a doctor.

—BMB

Pleas for help turn out to be robbery ploy

The Sadashivanagar police are on the lookout for a gang of five men, who allegedly robbed a 28-year-old housekeeping staffer of his mobile phone near Gate No. 4 of Palace Grounds on Ballari Road in the early hours of Friday.

The victim, identified as Rajesh Kumar Behera, a resident of Koodlu Gate, had travelled to Tumakuru with a friend on a bike. While returning home around 2.30 am, their bike's tyre developed

a puncture near Palace Grounds, forcing them to wait by the roadside for transport.

At that time, an autorickshaw carrying five men approached them. The group requested Behera's help in transferring money online, claiming they would pay him in cash. Initially hesitant, Behera agreed after their repeated pleas citing an emergency. However, while he was attempting the transaction, one of the men suddenly snatched his mobile phone worth ₹10,000, pushed him aside, and fled in the autorickshaw. Police have registered a case of robbery and are reviewing CCTV footage from the area to identify and trace the accused.

—BMB

3 arrested for attempted counterfeit currency scam

The Jayanagar police have arrested three men from Tamil Nadu for allegedly attempting to cheat businessmen and traders by promising counterfeit currency in exchange for genuine notes attempting to cheat people by offering counterfeit notes at a 1:3 ratio.

The accused Miran Mohiduddin (39), Sheikh Mohammed (40), and Rajeshwaran (43), all from Tirunelveli district were caught red-handed after police received a tip-off about their activities in South Bengaluru.

Police officials said the trio targeted businessmen by offering three times the amount in counterfeit currency if they handed over Rs 10 lakh in genuine notes. To gain the victims' trust, they initially provided genuine notes while

claiming them to be fake and carried out staged roadside exchanges, placing real money on top of a suitcase filled with plain white papers beneath. On October 13, acting on a tip-off, officers intercepted a car in Bengaluru where the suspects were waiting to deliver the consignment. A search of the vehicle uncovered a suitcase containing 31 genuine 500 notes, while the rest were pieces of paper cut to resemble currency.

During the raid, police recovered bundles of white papers interspersed with 31 genuine Rs 500 notes. No counterfeit currency was found. A case of cheating has been registered at Jayanagar police station. Four other suspects linked to the case are still absconding.

—BMB

Man found dead in lodge

A 20-year-old man from Puttur was found dead under suspicious circumstances at a lodge on Friday in Maruthinagar. Takshit, who had been staying at the Grand Lodge for a week, was discovered lying on his bed.

Takshit and his girlfriend had come to Bengaluru from

Madikeri on October 10 and rented a room at the lodge. They largely stayed indoors, ordering food in. The girlfriend left on Thursday morning. He called her in the evening to extend the room booking and order food, after which she transferred Rs 125 to him.

Preliminary reports suggest that he may have suffered a heart attack or respiratory failure. Police have registered a case of suspicious death based on Takshit's father's complaint.

—BMB

Child marriages: Officers turn extortionists

In a shocking revelation, officials and staff tasked with protecting children in Karnataka have allegedly turned protectors into perpetrators—extorting money from families instead of taking action against offenders. Reports suggest that when complaints related to child marriage reach the Childline 1098 helpline or child protection officers, rather than promptly registering FIRs, officials have been threatening

families with police cases and demanding bribes to drop them.

An activist said, "Due to the failure of coordination committees, monitoring teams, and child protection officers, instances of child marriage have reportedly increased across the state. Even when underage girls are rescued, they are kept in shelter homes for a day or two and later sent back to their parents without proper follow-up. In several cases,

FIRs were not filed for over two weeks until the CEO of the child protection unit intervened, resulting in 30 FIRs being registered at once."

Karnataka leads India in child marriages, recording 1,419 cases in two years. Childline coordinator Kalyan Kumar was arrested for taking a ₹30,000 bribe; police are probing senior officials' possible involvement. Activists say systemic corruption is allowing such cases to continue unchecked.

—BMB



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TRADE ENQUIRY -9886789500 / 9481015244

ABC centre under dog cruelty cloud causes concern in city

Activists demand probe as COVA Trust faces allegations of cruel dog confinement while managing another ABC programme in city zone

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The appointment of a animal birth control (ABC) centre under the cloud at Raja Rajeshwari Nagar zone has created concerns. The ABC centre in question, Care of Voiceless Animals (COVA) Trust, is facing allegations of illegal confinement and cruel treatment of around 200 dogs in Eklaapur, Raichur. Activists are demanding a thorough investigation into the charges of confinement and mistreatment of dogs at the ABC centre before proceeding with its appointment.

Based on complaints and media reports, Raichur City Corporation (RCC) Assistant Executive Engineer (Environment) issued a notice to COVA Trust on October 14, directing it to provide an explanation within 24 hours of receiving the notice. "We have already issued a notice on 13 October demanding an explanation within 24 hours, but you have failed to do so. Harish KB of People for Animals inspected the ABC centre at Eklaapur and recommended the cancellation of the tender. You are directed to release the dogs and submit a detailed report within 24 hours. If you fail to do so, action will be taken against you as per the law," the letter stated.

Meanwhile, Harish KB, Anti-Animal Cruelty Officer, People for Animals, said that he visited the ABC centre on October 14, and found that in several cages more than five

dogs were crammed together, causing extreme discomfort, stress, and suffering. There was a complete lack of sanitation within the premises, and the dogs appeared weak, dehydrated, and frightened. "A follow-up inspection was conducted by myself along with the Deputy Director, Raichur, who intervened only after the involvement of former Member of Parliament Maneka Gandhi. During the second inspection, it was observed that the municipal authorities had acted on the recommenda-

Following inspections by animal welfare officers and intervention by former MP Maneka Gandhi, COVA Trust faces scrutiny for overcrowding and unsanitary conditions at Raichur ABC centre, raising questions over regulatory oversight

tions I made. The acts committed by M/s COVA constitute clear and wilful violations of animal welfare laws. Therefore, the termination of their ABC contract, as reflected in the Termination Notice dated October 14, 2025, is justified and must be enforced without delay," the inspection report stated.

Deputy Director (Animal Husbandry) Dr Pomsingh said that he visited the ABC centre and found the premises were unclean. "There is no shortage of food, but much remains to be done to keep the ABC



Dogs at Raichur ABC centre face severe stress and discomfort, sparking urgent demands for investigation and immediate action

centre clean," he added.

Raichur City Corporation Commissioner Jubin Mohapatra said the ABC contract of COVA Trust will not be renewed for violation of norms. "I have placed an order for new cages. All the problems will be addressed. I am also an animal lover and will not take measures that harm voiceless animals," the Commissioner said. Animal activists are calling on the authorities to act firmly against COVA for violating the norms. "I am deeply disturbed by COVA's alleged cruelty and regulatory breaches in BBMP (since 2018) and recently in Raichur. Immediate investigation and blacklisting of COVA are crucial to ensure animal welfare and accountability," said Sujaya Jagadish, an animal activist.

Nevina Kamath, Secretary of Action for Animal Justice, said the Rai-

chur incident highlights Karnataka's long-standing dysfunction in implementing the ABC (Animal Birth Control) programme for street dogs, which has languished in rules for 25 years. "Despite efforts by genuine activists to ensure SOPs are followed, unqualified entities like COVA have taken contracts in towns across the state, causing disruption. The State ABC Monitoring Committee is defunct, and officials fail to understand or execute their duties. This failure may attract scrutiny from the Apex Court," she said.

Dr Abhilash of COVA said the dogs at Raichur's ABC centre are part of the legally approved programme, undergoing sterilisation under authorisation from the Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry. "Temporary stays in the RAC ensure post-operative care," he added.

Metro ad ban lifted as BMRCL reclaims pillar space

After a gap of nearly seven years, advertisements are set to return to Bengaluru Metro pillars. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has invited tenders to display advertisements on selected metro pillars and portals along operational and upcoming lines. This follows an amendment to the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) advertising law, granting BMRCL the exclusive right to manage and display advertisements on its own premises. The tender covers metro lines across the Purple, Green, Yellow, and soon-to-be-launched Pink and Blue corridors — a total of 130 pillars. The project is valued at ₹65 crore, with expected annual revenues between ₹70–80 crore.

Ban lifted after seven years

Sources indicate that in August 2018, the then BBMP imposed a city-wide ban on outdoor advertisements to enhance urban aesthetics,



Bengaluru Metro pillars to soon display fresh advertisements under BMRCL's revived ad plan

halting ad placements on metro pillars and portals. Prior to the ban, BMRCL earned substantial non-fare revenue from these ads — ₹8 crore in 2016–17, ₹8.89 crore in 2017–18, and ₹3.9 crore in 2018–19. With legal clarity now restored, these ad-

vertising spaces are expected to once again provide consistent income for the metro. According to sources, under the new rule, if any advertisement displayed on metro structures is visible from GBA-administered areas, the revenue will be shared equally between BMRCL and GBA. This coordinated model ensures both agencies benefit while maintaining visual discipline and regulatory compliance.

Experts endorse non-fare revenue approach

Urban transport experts have lauded BMRCL's focus on non-fare revenue generation instead of increasing ticket prices. They argue that boosting alternative income — through advertising, retail leasing, and branding rights — can prevent fare hikes, making metro travel more affordable and sustainable. Meanwhile, a private advertising agency has secured a nine-year agreement with BMRCL to manage advertising rights across 67 metro stations. According to the company, "This long-term partnership covers over 100,000 sq. ft. of premium space and holds

the potential to generate up to ₹700 crore in revenue."

BMRCL currently operates three corridors — Purple, Green, and Yellow — spanning 97 km with 83 stations. The network serves an average of 8.5 lakh passengers daily, with ridership expected to rise sharply after the launch of the Pink and Blue lines. BMRCL's revenue extends well beyond ticket sales, encompassing station naming rights, in-coach advertising and branding, leasing of retail and ATM spaces, parking lot rentals, film and media shoots within metro premises, promotional kiosks and digital billboards, EV charging stations, as well as telecom towers and fibre-optic cable installations.

BMRCL's total revenue increased from ₹376.88 crore in 2019–20 to ₹573.90 crore in 2023–24, a growth of 52%. Non-fare revenue, including advertising and retail leases, rose from ₹43.03 crore to ₹50.50 crore, up 17%. Following a pandemic-induced slump in 2020–21, earnings rebounded sharply by 2021–22, with total revenue reaching ₹163.33 crore (up 232%) and non-fare revenue ₹30.03 crore (up 23%). **-BMB**

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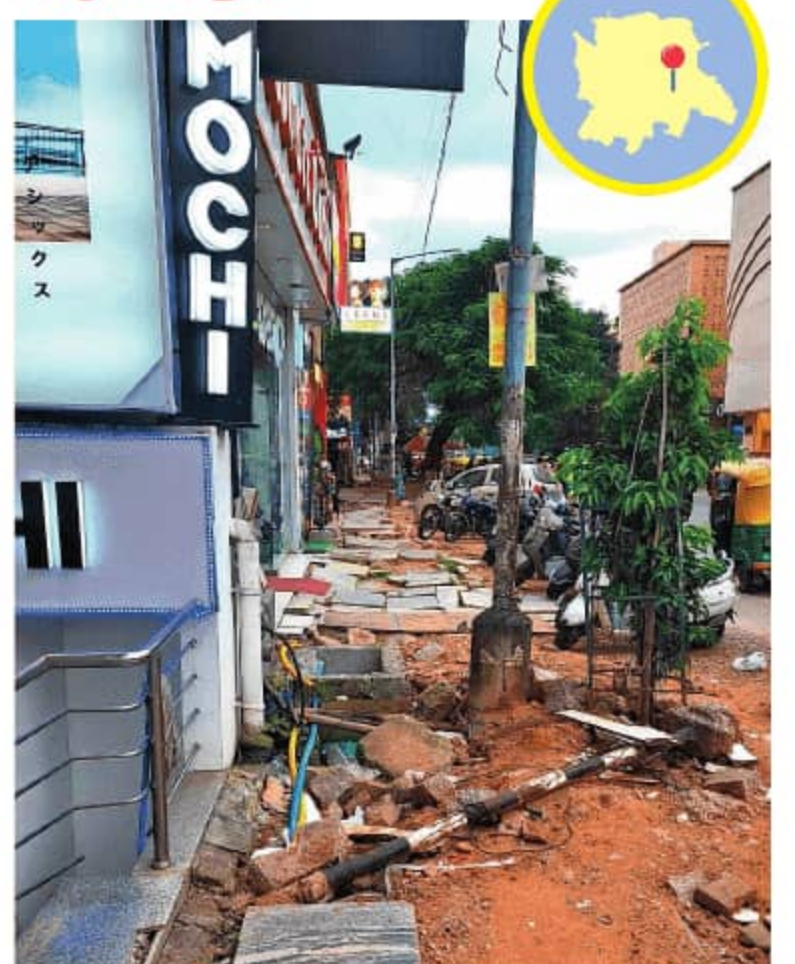
A large pile of rubbish, including a discarded bicycle, has been dumped at 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, Vidyapeeta Layout, raising health and sanitation concerns among residents, who are calling for an immediate cleanup.

Path blocked Kempegowda Road



Rubbish remains uncollected on Kempegowda Road despite multiple complaints, causing health concerns and obstructing pathways.

Cleanup urgent Jayanagar



Waste and civic issues have been reported at 11th Main Road/Aurobindo Marg Road, 4th Block, Jayanagar, in front of the Asics showroom.

Citizens want return of remote FIR centre

Video-based FIR system that made policing accessible, transparent and safer for women, senior citizens, launched in 2014 hasn't been functional

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Nearly a decade after the Bengaluru City Police launched the country's first-of-its-kind "Remote FIR Centre" at Mantri Mall, citizens are calling for its revival. The initiative, which allowed people to file First Information Reports (FIRs) through video conferencing, was hailed as a major step in bringing policing closer to the public.

The Remote FIR Centre, inaugurated in 2014, aimed to make police services more accessible—especially for women, senior citizens, and those hesitant to visit police stations. Citizens could walk into the mall-based centre, connect via video call with officers at the Commissioner's office, and file their complaints directly. The FIRs were then registered at the respective jurisdictional stations without requiring the complainant's physical presence.

The initiative came at a time when public confidence in police accessibility was low. It provided a tech-enabled solution to an old problem—long queues, travel hassles, and the discomfort many felt inside police stations. Many who remember using the system believe its revival in 2025 could significantly improve public-



police engagement, especially as the city undergoes rapid digital transformation.

"It was a brilliant idea that was far ahead of its time," said Rohini Krishnan, a resident of Malleshwaram. "At a time when people were unfamiliar with online complaint portals, the Remote

FIR Centre allowed face-to-face interaction through a video call. It felt official and safe," she recalled. For women who faced harassment in public spaces, the system offered a dignified, non-intimidating space to seek help.

"I remember accompanying a friend to the Mantri Mall center. She

was visibly anxious about visiting a police station but felt comfortable talking to the officer over video," Rohini added.

Despite its success, the project was discontinued in 2016, after about two years of operation. Police officials cited logistical and administrative challenges such as maintaining technical infrastructure, deploying trained personnel, and coordinating between multiple stations.

Since then, Bengaluru Police have introduced several digital services—including the "Namma 100" helpline, the online FIR registration portal, and mobile apps for reporting traffic violations. However, many citizens feel these platforms lack the personal touch of human interaction.

"With so many tech-based government initiatives today, reviving the Remote FIR system should be easier than ever," said Amit Kumar, a software engineer from Rajajinagar. "We already have reliable video conferencing tools. If the police integrate these with digital complaint systems, it can make filing FIRs faster and more transparent."

Social media has seen renewed citizen appeals urging Bengaluru Police to relaunch the project, especially amid growing concerns about women's safety and cybercrime. Residents argue that a public-access center located in a busy area like a mall could encourage more people to report

Revival can improve public-police engagement, especially in 2025, a time of rapid digital transformation

crimes without hesitation.

Experts in urban governance believe the timing is ideal for its revival. "In 2014, it was a pilot project. Today, with better internet connectivity, secure cloud platforms, and data privacy laws, implementing it would be far more efficient," said a public policy researcher.

As the city expands and its population grows, the pressure on law enforcement continues to increase. Initiatives like the Remote FIR Center, citizens argue, could bridge the trust deficit and strengthen communication between the public and the police.

"It's about trust," said Rohini. "When people see they can approach the police easily—even in a mall—it sends a strong message that safety and accessibility are priorities."

Whether Bengaluru Police will act on these calls remains uncertain, but the demand highlights one thing clearly: residents want their police force to be not only digital and efficient, but also approachable, visible, and human.

Attack of the roaches sullies KSRTC bus journey

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After passengers aboard a Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) nonstop bus from Mysuru to Bengaluru were left shocked by an outpouring of cockroaches inside the vehicle, there is outrage among commuters over the poor maintenance and lack of cleanliness in government-run buses. KSRTC officials also confirmed to BM that pest fumigation or pest control measures are carried out only when complaints are received.

Passengers of the Bengaluru bound bus spotted cockroaches soon after the bus departed from Maddur. They said that the insects were seen crawling along the walls, under the seats, and near the windows, creating discomfort and unease throughout the journey.

A passenger recounted that the situation worsened as night fell. "When we reached Kengeri, more cockroaches started coming out. The person sitting next to me was so irritated that he chose to stand for the rest of the journey. By the time we reached the Satellite Bus Stand, many passengers were visibly upset and complaining about the state

of the bus," he said.

The commuter also confronted the driver about the poor maintenance, but was told to file an official complaint. "Even if many women are traveling for free due to the state scheme, shouldn't the corporation maintain hygiene? Men are paying for a nonstop service that charges high fares. Such conditions are unacceptable as it shows complete negligence in cleaning and upkeep," the passenger added.

After the complaint gained traction online, Bangalore Mirror spoke to KSRTC officials, who clarified that regular fumigation is primarily conducted for premium AC services such as Flybus, Rajahansa, and Volvo. "These buses are fully enclosed and used frequently, making them more prone to pests like cockroaches and bedbugs. Hence, they undergo pest control every month," an official explained.

"For regular red buses, pest control is done only upon receiving passenger complaints, as these vehicles generally don't require frequent treatment," the official said, adding that the matter will be followed up. "We will direct the depot concerned to conduct a thorough inspection. The vehicle will undergo complete



Passenger of KSRTC bus from Mysuru to Bengaluru captures the moment when cockroaches emerged everywhere in the bus. The sight made everyone uneasy and uncomfortable

pest control treatment and deep cleaning before being deployed again."

This is not the first time KSRTC has faced such criticism. In August, a bus passenger named Aniket Mahapatra shared his experience on X, "I am currently traveling in an Airavat Club Class bus and noticed baby cockroaches roaming inside. This is extremely unhygienic and disappointing for a premium service. Request immediate attention and proper pest control."

In February 2025, another passenger posted about "VIP guests"—cockroaches—enjoying a ride in a Volvo, sarcastically calling it a "five-star experience."

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STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO

Crimson garden glow

Our reader shares a vivid image of Red Allamanda blooms brightening a home in Whitefield, their crimson petals glowing against lush green leaves. The photograph captures the cheerful charm of tropical flora in full flourish—celebrating the quiet beauty that thrives in Bengaluru's suburban gardens.

The picture was clicked by reader
NJ Ravi Chander



If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

Government plans to hear out IT & BT firms' woes

Deputy CM promises local use of tax revenue, action on illegal buildings, and improved connectivity through metro, flyovers, and tunnel roads

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar has announced that he, along with the Ministers for IT, Industries, Science, and Technology, will soon hold separate meetings with IT and BT companies to hear their concerns. "The city currently generates around ₹6,000 crore in tax revenue, of which East Bengaluru contributes ₹1,600 crore. Earlier, taxes were distributed across all areas, but now each region's tax revenue will be utilised locally," he explained.

He added that the newly formed East Bengaluru Corporation, which covers KR Puram and Mahadevapura, is the richest in the state. "With several IT-BT companies based here, the creation of a separate corporation under the 74th Amendment will help channel significant funds for development. Previously, taxes from this area were used for other parts of the city, but now, under the new law, resources generated here will be invested in the development of its 50 wards. This will help improve facilities for both citizens and the IT sector," Shivakumar said.

Highlighting civic issues, he expressed



A cityscape symbolizing Bengaluru's urban shift, where decentralised governance and local revenue allocation aim to upgrade IT-BT hubs like KR Puram and Mahadevapura

concern over the growing number of illegal constructions in KR Puram. "Encroachment and unauthorised buildings are on the rise. Some people have constructed multi-storey buildings on multiple plots without proper approval. Such structures will be demolished in line with Supreme Court directives," he cautioned. Shivakumar clarified that temporary relief had been granted to owners of 30x40 sites by exempting them from Occupancy Certificate (OC) and Completion Certificate (CC) requirements, but this was only a one-time measure. "Henceforth, everyone must obtain proper building plan approval. Constructions without setbacks or with extra floors on small plots will not be permitted," he said.

Responding to residents' appeals, he said that issues like hospital encroachments, market relocation, traffic congestion, and the need for flyovers, pedestrian bridges, and CCTV cameras are being addressed. "We've allotted pushcarts to street vendors to reduce

DK Shivakumar announced focused East Bengaluru development with local tax reinvestment and infrastructure upgrades

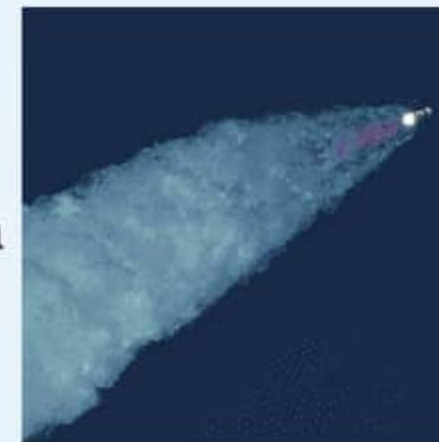
footpath encroachments, allowing them to own these by paying 10-30% of the cost. There are around 30,000 street vendors in the city. Citizens have also asked for more CCTV cameras, and we will prioritize that," he added.

On infrastructure plans, Shivakumar said the region will soon see new flyovers, metro connectivity, a national highway, and a tunnel road. He thanked residents, public representatives, and civic leaders for their co-operation and said the government and the Greater Bengaluru Authority remain committed to implementing their suggestions.

When asked about Biocon chief Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw's offer to develop 10-15 city roads, he said, "That's great news. She can choose which roads she wants to develop. Once she discusses it with us, we'll extend full cooperation." — BMB

DID YOU KNOW?

SpaceX launched its colossal Starship rocket on another test flight Monday, marking a major milestone in its deep-space ambitions. The mammoth spacecraft lifted off from Starbase in Texas, soaring into the evening sky before the booster separated and re-entered the Gulf of Mexico as planned. Starship then coated halfway around the planet, releasing mock satellites and descending into the Indian Ocean—none of it recovered. "Welcome back to Earth, Starship," SpaceX commentator Dan Huot declared as cheers erupted at mission control. This was the 11th full-scale test flight of the world's most powerful rocket, a key step toward Elon Musk's long-term vision of sending humans to Mars. NASA, however, is eyeing a nearer goal: landing astronauts on the Moon's south pole by decade's end. The agency depends on Starship as the lunar lander for its Artemis missions. Musk, watching from outside launch control for the first time, called the experience "much more visceral." This upgraded mission included more complex manoeuvres and tests during re-entry. NASA's acting administrator Sean Duffy hailed the success as "another major step toward landing Americans on the Moon." — BMB



GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

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Not much evidence to support rumours of Xi Jinping's failing health

Claim: Several Western and Taiwan-based outlets, including Fox News and Vision Times, claimed that Chinese President Xi Jinping is seriously ill, recovering from a stroke, and may be losing control of power amid an internal Chinese Communist Party (CCP) struggle.

The Fact: No credible evidence supports these claims. Chinese authorities haven't confirmed any illness, and major media remain silent. Fact-checks, including by the Lansing Institute, found such stories stem from unverified, politically motivated rumours circulated through social media and circular sourcing.

Speculation about Chinese President Xi Jinping's health has once again stirred global debate, raising questions about his potential successor and the internal stability of the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). The latest round of rumours began after Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, appeared at the Global Women's Summit in Beijing on October 13, 2025, where Xi announced contributions of US\$10 million to UN Women and US\$100 million toward global development programs.

Instead of easing concerns, the heavily edited state media coverage of the event deepened speculation. Observers noted that Xi appeared tired and hesitant, while parts of his speech were reportedly read by a news anchor rather than aired live. These details spread quickly across international social media platforms, fuelling claims that the 72-year-old leader might be recovering from a stroke or another medical condition.

Despite the online buzz, Chinese officials have remained silent, offering neither confirmation nor denial. The lack of transparency has allowed conjecture to thrive, with some analysts calling the rumours a form of "information warfare." No major international news outlets have verified any claims about Xi's health.

Adding to the intrigue, Fox News aired a discussion with US-based China analyst Gordon Chang, who reignited debate over Xi's political future. In a video titled "EARTH-SHATTERING: Rumours float Xi is losing grip on power in China," Chang cited alleged diplomatic sources claiming that a planned meeting between Xi and former US President Donald Trump at the upcoming APEC Summit in South Korea had been abruptly postponed until at least 2026. He suggested that the delay might not be a simple scheduling issue but a reflection of deeper political or health problems, hinting that Xi may have lost the freedom to travel abroad. Political commentator Tang Jingyuan, quoted by Vision Times, called the cancellation "highly unusual," interpreting it as a sign of internal rifts within the CCP—between factions advocating diplomacy with Washington and others promoting confrontation.

Rumours intensified after an old Bloomberg video resurfaced showing a light-hearted conversation between Xi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un about longevity. Xi's remark that "at 70, you're still a child" was widely dissected for hidden meaning. However, experts urge caution. Professor Wen-Hsuan Tsai of National Chengchi University argued that Xi intends to rule until death, like Mao Zedong or Stalin. A Lansing Institute fact-check concluded that many of the health rumours originated from Russian-backed misinformation, describing them as "Cold War-style rumours" circulated through unverified sources and politically motivated echo chambers designed to sow confusion globally. — ET Online



The dam that empties itself

Inside Markonahalli's century-old engineering genius — and its hidden risks



information on danger zones," said Dr HD Ranganath, MLA, Kunigal. Meanwhile, Rudresh, Assistant Executive Engineer of the Ediyuru Hemavathi Canal Division, said, "The mishap occurred outside our jurisdiction. However, we've installed signboards within our limits and plan to fence the river region soon."

When water level reaches 88.5 ft, siphons begin releasing water automatically. At 89 ft, main siphons open on their own, rapidly releasing massive volumes into the river

Reminder from gistory

Built at a cost of ₹29 lakh in the late 1930s, Markonahalli Dam remains a testament to Indian engineering brilliance — yet it now serves as a stark reminder that technology without awareness can turn perilous. For Bengaluru's adventure seekers, Markonahalli is still worth the visit — but only with caution and respect for the invisible power of the dam that empties itself.

| Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Barely a two-hour drive from Bengaluru, the Markonahalli Dam in Tumakuru district has long been a popular weekend destination for city dwellers. Its calm waters and lush surroundings make it a perfect picnic spot. But behind this picturesque façade lies a century-old engineering innovation that, while brilliant, can also turn dangerous for the unaware.

Asia's unique automatic siphon dam

Constructed between 1938 and 1940, Markonahalli Dam is the only dam in Asia equipped with self-operating siphon gates. Spread across 1,336 hectares, the dam irrigates 5,560 hectares of farmland and holds a water capacity of 2.4 TMC feet. The dam was the brainchild of Sir M Visvesvaraya, with support from Nalvadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar of the Mysore Kingdom. Using gravitational force, the

dam's automatic siphons discharge excess water once it reaches the maximum level — a feat of engineering genius at the time.

When genius becomes dangerous

However, this technological marvel can become a death trap for visitors who remain unaware of its functioning. When the water level reaches 88.5 feet, four baby siphons and 16 wooden siphons begin releasing water automatically. At 89 feet, the main siphons open on their own, rapidly releasing massive volumes into the river. This sudden surge often catches unsuspecting visitors off-guard. Just weeks ago, six members of a family were swept away, while in 2021, five people lost their lives at the same spot. Officials say the siphons merely did what they were designed to do — operate automatically when water levels rise. But the lack of public awareness and warning systems has turned this innovation into a recurring tragedy.

Call for awareness and safety

Experts say that better signage, fencing, and

awareness campaigns could prevent such incidents. "Public awareness about the reservoir's

automatic system is crucial. I've instructed officials to install signboards and provide clear

HIGH-OCTANE PERFORMANCE BY RAGHU DIXIT PROJECT



What a night to remember! Despite a 90% rain prediction, not a single drop fell — because passion, planning, and teamwork made even the skies clear. And for Bengaluru, it turned out to be an unforgettable evening as their favourite musician Raghu Dixit held them in thrall on October 11. The event celebrating 25 Years of Raghu Dixit's Musical Journey with pure magic — brought to life by Mahaloith Melodies & Team Concept Crew was a huge success as audiences grooved to well-loved tunes. The concert shows that Raghu Dixit is going strong and has a special place in Bengaluru's heart as the band's connection with the audience was in full display. The band's songs were like a shot of energy to the listeners. All roads led to Phoenix Marketcity on this extra special evening. The event had Sharath Raj Media, Madurai Bun Parotta Hut, Bangalore Mirror, and Radio Fever as partners.

Public awareness about the reservoir's automatic system is crucial. I've instructed officials to install signboards and provide clear information on danger zones

— Dr HD Ranganath, MLA, Kunigal

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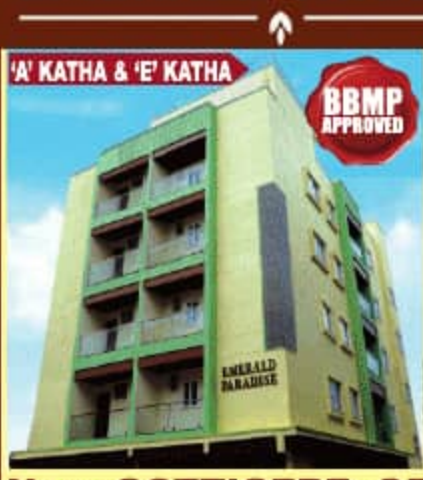
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Fake invoices expose ₹21-crore GST scam

The Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Belagavi Zonal Unit, has unearthed a massive GST evasion of ₹21.64 crore by a scrap trading firm based in Harihar, Davanagere district. According to officials, the company issued fake invoices worth about ₹112 crore, leading to the fraudulent availment and utilisation of ₹17.14 crore in Input Tax Credit (ITC).

During the inspection, Mohammad Saqlain — identified as the key operator of the firm — was confronted with

documentary evidence and admitted to illegally availing ITC through fake bills. He also confessed to short-payment of ₹4.5 crore under the reverse charge mechanism, taking the total GST evasion to ₹21.64 crore.

Investigations revealed that the firm procured metal scrap mainly from unregistered suppliers, where ITC was not eligible. Purchases from registered dealers were linked to fictitious or non-existent firms. Genuine transactions were allegedly mixed with bogus invoices to pass on ineligible ITC and evade tax. **BMB**

Illegal mining mars state's revenue growth

Mining activity in Karnataka has expanded to over 30,000 hectares, with another 15,000 hectares identified for exploration. The State currently earns around ₹7,500 crore annually from mineral production, a figure expected to double once new operations commence.

Mining is underway for 24 major minerals, including gold, iron ore, limestone, bauxite, and copper, and 58 minor minerals such as granite, sand, and dolomite. Officially, 19,455 hec-

tares are used for major minerals and 10,000–15,000 hectares for minor ones, though illegal mining has widened the actual footprint.

In 2024–25, mining royalties rose to ₹7,698 crore from ₹5,945 crore in 2022–23, following revised royalty rates from January 1.

However, the surge in illegal red stone mining across Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shivamogga, Belagavi, and Bidar has exposed enforcement gaps and environmental risks. **BMB**

Worm-infested rice sparks political uproar

Karnataka is grappling with a major food safety and procurement crisis as over 5,000 quintals of substandard rice procured under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme have turned worm-infested in government warehouses, rendering them unfit for distribution.

Despite repeated directives from the

Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs Department to supply only quality grain, several rice mills—particularly in Davangere—continue delivering poor-quality stock.

Officials have issued seven-day notices to these mills to replace the defective rice, failing which the spoiled grain will be destroyed. **BMB**

State drives clean mobility revolution forward

Karnataka is intensifying its push toward e-mobility by planning 1,500 high-capacity EV charging stations under the PM E-Drive initiative. These fast-charging hubs will cater to both heavy and light vehicles and will be set up at bus depots, highways, and freight corridors to power the state's growing fleet of electric buses and trucks.

Currently, Karnataka leads the nation with over 6,000 charging sta-

tions, forming a robust EV network.

The PM E-Drive scheme provides 80–100% central funding, easing the state's financial load. The project also seeks to boost local EV component manufacturing, enhance electric freight systems, and promote sustainable transport. Oil majors IOCL, HPCL, and BPCL have been enlisted to install 400 additional charging stations statewide, strengthening Karnataka's clean mobility infrastructure. **BMB**

Your Connect

personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ankita Soni W/O. Arun Takru R/o Flat B1-701 Oceanus Classic Apartment, Kodigehalli Main Road, Kadugodi Plantation, Bengaluru 560067 have changed my name to Ankita Takru for all purposes.

I, BABY W/o. Sri. Phukhraj Suvalal, Resident at No. 601, 15th Cross, 1st Main Road, Srinagar, Bengaluru-560 050 have changed my name to BABY BAI vide Affidavit dated 17.10.2025. sworn before notary V.Anjanappa Bengaluru.

I, MADHUJA LAXMAN YADAV, W/o Sahil Sitaram Rane, R/o #1505, Bren Imperia, Wing 4, Harlur Main Road, Shubh Enclave, Kasavanahalli, Bengaluru - 560102, have changed my name as MADHUJA SAHIL RANE, vide affidavit dated 18.10.2025, sworn before notary Nijagunarahdya T.C, Bengaluru.

I, SAHIL RANE, S/o Sitaram Dhaku Rane, R/o #1505, Bren Imperia, Wing 4, Harlur Main Road, Shubh Enclave, Kasavanahalli, Bengaluru - 560102, have changed my name as SAHIL SITARAM RANE, vide affidavit dated 18.10.2025, sworn before notary Nijagunarahdya T.C, Bengaluru.

I, ANKUSH BIDARAKERE UMESH (Old Name), S/o Umesh Bidarakere Javaraiiah, residing at No.A2205, Tower-A, Nikoo Homes-2, Yelahanka, Bangalore -560064, have changed my name to ANKUSH ARAS (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 17/10/2025 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I Sita G , D/o. A B Girijashankar, aged about 48 year residing at No.518, F104, 27th Cross, Ideal Homes, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bangalore 560098. I have changed my name to DEEPA G VIDE A F F I D A V I T DATED:16.10.2025 before notary N Sandhya, Bangalore

I, DHURVANG JITENDRA WAGH alias DRUVANG WAGH, S/o Wagh Jitendra Kashinath, resident at F Block, Flat 1403, Ozone Evergreens, Haralur Road, Sarjapura Main Road, Bengaluru - 560103, have changed my name as DRUVANG JITENDRA WAGH, vide affidavit dated 18.10.2025, sworn before notary Nijagunarahdya T.C, Bengaluru.



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Leadership void hits NTCA as key posts lie vacant

Wildlife conservationist flags leadership crisis in NTCA; key IGF and Member Secretary posts remain unfilled amid crucial tiger estimation preparations

In a complaint sent to Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, a wildlife conservationist has flagged a leadership crisis in the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), including its southern regional office in Bengaluru.

According to the complaint, the Bengaluru office is functioning without an officer of Inspector General of Forests (IGF) rank and is being managed only by Assistant Inspector General of Forests (AIGF)-level officers.

Typically, each regional office of the NTCA is headed by an IGF-rank officer, assisted by an AIGF. This hierarchy ensures strong field-level leadership, effective supervision, and statutory coordination across tiger-bearing states and conservation landscapes.

In his letter, conservationist Giridhar Kulkarni also highlighted that the post of Member Secretary of the NTCA — a statutory position under the Wildlife (Protection) Act — has remained vacant for several months. The current IGF has been holding the additional charge of Member Secretary for the past three months, and this ad-hoc arrangement has now been extended for another three months from October 14, 2025.

Kulkarni noted that such inter-



The absence of senior officers, coupled with ad-hoc appointments, threatens continuity, authority, and efficient review of Project Tiger implementation across multiple states.

im arrangements are deeply concerning, especially as preparations for the All-India Tiger Estimation Exercise are underway and training programmes for field officials have already begun.

The absence of full-time leadership during this crucial period, he warned, could lead to delays, miscoordination, and weakened oversight in what is considered the world's largest and most critical wildlife monitoring effort.

He further pointed out that the absence of IGF-rank officers in regional offices and a vacant Deputy Inspector General (DIG)-level post at the headquarters undermines statutory authority, command, and technical supervision. These posts are essential for

reviewing proposals from Tiger Reserves, monitoring Project Tiger's implementation, and coordinating with state governments to ensure consistent conservation outcomes.

"The appointment of a retired officer to head an NTCA regional office further dilutes accountability, authority, and continuity of command, besides setting an undesirable precedent," Kulkarni wrote.

He urged that all vacant IGF-level posts across NTCA's regional offices — in the central, southern, and eastern zones — be filled without delay, and that serving officers with appropriate seniority and experience be appointed to restore effective leadership and coordination within the tiger conservation framework. **BMB**

Transplanted trees require tender, loving care

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

were surveyed, and 34 trees were reported to be adapting to the new environment. Similarly, between July and September, 61 trees were surveyed, and 32 were found healthy. City-based experts say that although the rate of survival appears reasonable, it can be further improved.

"While a success rate of 50% can be considered at par, K-RIDE must aim for a higher success rate of over 75%. Moreover, this decent success rate can also be attributed to good rainfall towards the end of last year and all along this year.

In transplantation, climatic conditions play a vital role in survival," said Dr C Nagarajaiah, professor and ex-head of the Department of Forestry and Environmental Science at the University of Agricultural Sciences (GKVK), Bengaluru.

The trees were translocated following the root ball method prescribed through a set of guidelines proposed by a team of botanists from the University of Agricultural Sciences, GKVK, in 2020.

Experts say the agencies carrying out translocation can improve the success rate, provided post-translocation care is done diligently. If transplanted trees are nurtured well, the chances of survival will be higher. When a fully grown tree is uprooted and placed in a new environment, it requires constant attention for at least six months after the process.

"We need to ensure that the guidelines are being followed to a T. Better watering system, proper pit creation, careful extraction, and safe transportation are important aspects to ensure higher chances of survival," said a city-based tree activist. Experts also suggest that systematic research of transplantation success stories from across the country is the need of the hour for the survival rate to improve.

Hiccup on the road

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

week. At the start of the year, enforcement drives were carried out even on weekdays, and special drives were taken up. Over the last two months, we have intensified weekday checks as well. In order to ensure public safety, drunk and drive enforcement is being carried out every day."

He further added that both inspectors and sub-inspectors are authorised to conduct these checks, ensuring wider coverage across the city.

A senior traffic police official also noted that the issue is not limited to the central business district (CBD) but is prevalent across various parts of Bengaluru. "There have been incidents of drunk and rash driving and even cases of road rage in several areas. Considering this, enforcement is being done on a regular basis now. Generally, within city limits, checks are conducted from 10.30 pm onwards, while in border station limits, enforcement is carried out between 8.30 pm and 10.30 pm," the official said.

A former traffic warden pointed out that regular enforcement of drunk and drive rules is crucial to curb accidents, prevent loss of life, and promote responsible driving behaviour. "Regular checks and strict penalties are essential to deter offenders. Drunk driving doesn't just endanger the driver it puts every commuter at risk," he said.

Citizens are reassured by the increased action against drinking rule violators.

Mehak, a resident of Indiranagar, said, "Late-night driving in the city feels unsafe these days, especially with the recent road rage incidents. One can often see vehicles swerving or speeding after parties. It's reassuring to know the police are increasing checks; it makes regular commuters like us feel more protected."

Man tries to pass off wife's murder as accident

Daughter's claim of bathroom being latched from outside busts water heater electrocution theory

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A 25-year-old man, Prashant Kumar, was arrested for allegedly murdering his wife, Reshma (32) by strangling her to death and staging it as an accident in Hebbagodi. The incident came to light on October 16, after Reshma's sister lodged a complaint at the Hebbagodi Police Station.

Reshma, a mother to a 14-year-

CRIME FILES

old daughter, had remarried Prashant nine months ago after meeting him on Instagram Reels. Her first husband had passed away within a year of marriage.

According to police, Prashant suspected Reshma of having an affair. On the evening of October 15, her daughter found her mother unconscious in the bathroom and alerted relatives. Neighbours rushed

Reshma to a hospital on Hosur Road, where she was declared dead. Prashant claimed she had accidentally electrocuted herself while using a water heater.

Suspicion arose when Reshma's sister, Renuka, questioned the daughter, who revealed that her mother and stepfather frequently fought and that the bathroom latch had been locked from outside. Acting on this information, Hebbagodi police detained Prashant near Hosur Main Road the following day.



During interrogation and a crime scene reconstruction with

SOCO officials, Prashant confessed to assaulting and strangling his wife in a fit of rage over suspected infidelity. He admitted placing her body in the bathroom and switching on the water heater to stage an accident.

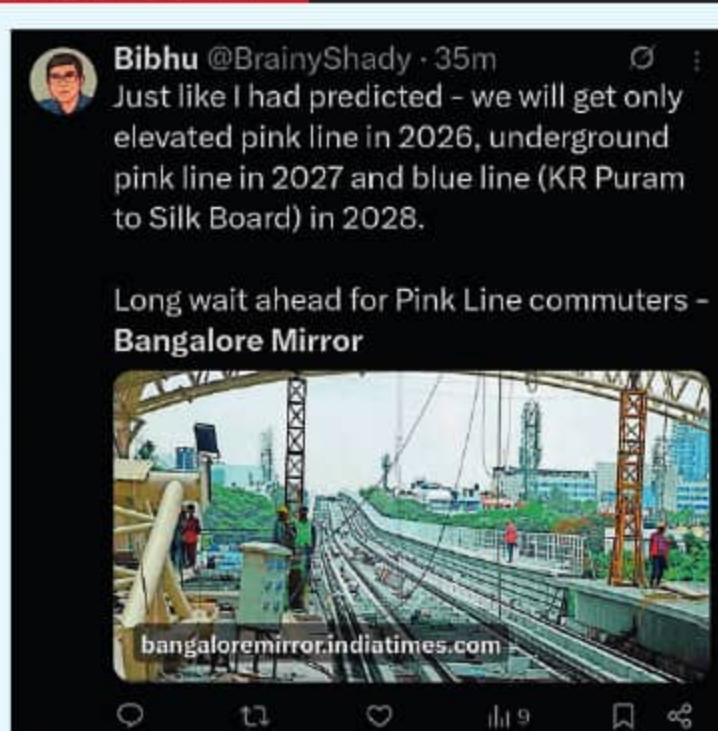
Prashant, a flower merchant and electrician, has been remanded in judicial custody. A murder case has been registered, and further investigation is underway. Police confirmed jealousy over alleged infidelity as the primary motive behind the killing.

— BMB

SOCIAL TATTLE

BM tagged

@BrainyShady reposts BM story on Metro's pink line and makes some predictions for when the project will see completion. Blue line will be done only by 2028, the X user writes.



That went viral

A Bengaluru-based entrepreneur Varun Agarwal wrote about his experience flagging down autos and when a woman auto driver's kindness helped him. The heartwarming experience tugged a few heart strings indeed, as when many autos turned him down the woman driver went out of her way to drop him home.

autos and when a woman auto driver's kindness helped him. The heartwarming experience tugged a few heart strings indeed, as when many autos turned him down the woman driver went out of her way to drop him home.



Nobody does philosophy better than Bengaluru's auto drivers. Here one more epigram catches a X user's eye. Auto anna strikes again with his philosophy. On r/Bengaluru, Redditor Lazy Godfather writes: Auto anna strikes again...

BBA student dies by suicide, senior booked for abetment

IN BRIEF

A 19-year-old BBA student allegedly ended her life at her rented residence in Green Garden Layout, under Bagalur police station limits, on Friday morning. Sana Parvin, who hailed from Somwarpet in Kodagu district, had moved to the city to pursue her degree at a private college in Kadusonnappanahalli. According to her father, Abdul Nazeer, a civil contractor, Sana had been facing persistent

harassment from her former senior, Rifas, who hails from Thrissur, Kerala. Nazeer lodged a complaint with the Bagalur police, alleging that Rifas had been stalking, blackmailing, and pressuring Sana into a relationship over the past year. Despite a warning issued to Rifas by the college authorities ten months ago, the harassment reportedly continued through abusive messages. The complaint led the police to register a case under Section 108 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita

(BNS) for abetment of suicide. According to preliminary reports, one of Sana's teachers called her mother around 11 am to report that Sana was unwell. By the time her parents reached Bengaluru, she had already died. Her housemates told police that she had stayed back home Friday morning, citing breathing difficulties, before taking her own life around 10.30 am. Sana was rushed to a private hospital in Kothanur, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. Rifas,

who completed his studies two years ago, is currently absconding and is believed to be in Kerala. Investigation is ongoing. BMB (If you or someone you know is struggling with suicidal thoughts, reach out to Tele-Manas helpline: 14416 or 1800-891-4416, SAHAI Helpline: 080-25497777).

BMB

IPS officer, 6 others booked for 'dowry harassment'

An FIR has been registered in Noida against a Karnataka-cadre IPS officer and six others on charges of dowry harassment, domestic violence and other offences. The complaint was lodged by his wife, who is doctor based in Noida, police said on Saturday. According to officials, the complaint was filed by Kriti Singh, a resident of Noida, against her husband Shivanshu Rajput, a 2019-batch IPS officer posted in Bengaluru, along with his father, mother, brother, sister-in-law and

two friends. "The FIR has been registered under sections 85, 115(2), 352, 351(2), 3(5), and 316(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, as well as sections 3 and 4 of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961," Bhupendra Kumar, Station In-charge of Sector 126 Police Station, told PTI. In her 41-page complaint filed on October 16, Singh alleged that she was subjected to dowry demands and physical as well as mental harassment since her marriage in December 2021, which took place at

a five-star hotel in Agra. The couple has a one-and-a-half-year-old son. She claimed her family spent over Rs 2 crore on the wedding, including jewellery and other expenses, but her in-laws continued to demand more dowry. The complaint further alleged that the IPS officer had relationships with other women and threatened to abandon her when confronted. "The investigation is underway and statements of the complainant and accused will be recorded soon," the station in charge added. PTI

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Al-generated lesson plans fall short on inspiring students and promoting critical thinking

Lessons not learnt

When teachers rely on commonly used artificial intelligence chatbots to devise lesson plans, it does not result in more engaging, immersive or effective learning experiences compared with existing techniques, we found in our recent study. The AI-generated civics lesson plans we analysed also left out opportunities for students to explore the stories and experiences of marginalised people.

The allure of generative AI as a teaching aid has caught the attention of educators. A Gallup survey from September 2025 found 60% of K-12 teachers are using AI in their work, with the most common reported use being teaching preparation and lesson planning.

Without the assistance of AI, teachers might spend hours every week crafting lessons for their students. With AI, teachers can generate detailed lesson plans featuring learning objectives, materials, activities, assessments, extension activities and homework tasks in a matter of seconds.

However, generative AI tools such as ChatGPT, Gemini and Copilot were not originally built with educators in mind. Instead, these tools were trained on huge amounts of text and media drawn largely from across the internet and then launched as general-purpose chatbots.

As we started using these tools

“When teachers choose to use these tools while preparing to teach, they risk relying on technology not designed to enhance, aid or improve teaching and learning”



in our practice as educators, we noticed they often produced instructional materials and lessons that echoed the “recite and recall” model of traditional schooling. This model can be effective for memorising basic facts, but it often fails to engage students in the active learning required to become informed citizens.

For our research, we began collecting and analysing AI-generated lesson plans to get a sense of what kinds of instructional plans and materials these tools provide to teachers. We decided to focus on AI-generated lesson plans for civics education.

To collect data for this study, in August 2024 we prompted three GenAI chatbots – the GPT-4o model of ChatGPT, Google’s Gemini 1.5 Flash model and Microsoft’s latest Copilot model – to generate two sets of lesson plans for eighth grade civics classes based on Massachusetts state standards. One was a standard lesson plan and the other a highly interactive lesson plan.

We garnered a dataset of 311 AI-generated lesson plans, featuring a total of 2,230 activities for civic education. We analyzed the dataset using two frameworks designed to assess educational material: Bloom’s taxonomy and Banks’ four levels of integration of multicultural content.

Bloom’s taxonomy is a widely used educational framework that distinguishes between “lower-order” thinking skills, including remembering, understanding and applying, and “higher-order” thinking skills – analysing, evaluating and creating. Using this framework to analyse the data, we found 90% of the activities promoted only a basic level of thinking for students. Students were encouraged to learn civics through memorising, reciting, summarising and applying information, rather than through analysing and evaluating information, investigating issues or engaging in civic action projects.

When examining the lesson plans using Banks’ four levels of integration of multicultural con-

tent model, which was developed in the 1990s, we found that the AI-generated civics lessons featured a rather narrow view of history.

Overall, we found the AI-generated lesson plans to be decidedly boring, traditional and uninspiring. When teachers choose to use these tools while preparing to teach, they risk relying on technology not designed to enhance, aid or improve teaching and learning. We see these tools producing step-by-step, one-size-fits-all solutions, when what’s needed in education is the opposite – flexibility and personalisation.

What’s next

While our study revealed that AI-generated lesson plans are lacking in many areas, this does not mean that teachers should not use these tools to prepare for class. A teacher could use generative AI technologies to advance their thinking. **(Torrey Trust, UMass Amherst and Robert Maloy, University of Massachusetts, The Conversation)**

Meta adds parental controls for AI-teen interactions

Meta is adding parental controls for kids’ interactions with artificial intelligence chatbots — including the ability to turn off one-on-one chats with AI characters altogether — beginning early next year.

But parents won’t be able to turn off Meta’s AI assistant, which Meta says will “will remain available to offer helpful information and educational opportunities, with default,

age-appropriate protections in place to help keep teens safe.”

Parents who don’t want to turn off all chats with all AI characters will also be able to block specific chatbots. And Meta said Friday that parents will be able to get “insights” about what their kids are chatting about with AI characters — although they won’t get access to the full chats.

The changes come as the social media giant faces ongoing criticism

over harms to children from its platforms. AI chatbots are also drawing scrutiny over their interactions with children that lawsuits claim have driven some to suicide.

Even so, more than 70% of teens have used AI companions and half use them regularly, according to a recent study from Common Sense Media, a nonprofit that studies and advocates for using screens and digital media sensibly.

On Tuesday, Meta announced

that teen accounts on Instagram will be restricted to seeing PG-13 content by default and won’t be able to change their settings without a parent’s permission.

This means kids using teen-specific accounts will see photos and videos on Instagram that are similar to what they would see in a PG-13 movie — no sex, drugs or dangerous stunts.

Meta said the PG-13 restrictions will also apply to AI chats. **AP**

BITS & BYTES

SHARE SHAKE-UP



The mother and two sisters of Samsung Electronics Chairman Jay Y Lee plan to sell some 1.73 trillion won (\$1.22 billion) worth of shares in the South Korean tech firm, the company said in a regulatory filing. The sale of 17.7 million shares, or a 0.3% stake in Samsung Electronics, aims to cover tax and loan payments, according to the late Friday filing with the Korea Exchange.

Experts view the sale by Lee’s sisters and his mother as part of the owner family’s efforts to secure funds to pay their inheritance tax estimated at about 12 trillion won. **Reuters**

MUSK PAY UNDER FIRE



Tesla’s proposed \$1 trillion pay package for CEO Elon Musk came under fresh scrutiny on Friday, with proxy adviser ISS urging shareholders to reject what might be the largest-ever compensation plan awarded to a company chief.

This is the second consecutive year that Institutional Shareholder Services has urged investors to reject a compensation plan for Musk. Proxy advisers often sway major institutional investors, including the passive funds that hold large stakes in Tesla. The ISS recommendation adds pressure on Tesla’s board ahead of a closely watched November 6 shareholder meeting and renews scrutiny of Musk’s compensation after a Delaware court earlier voided his \$56 billion pay package. Musk’s record Tesla pay plan could still hand him tens of billions of dollars. **Reuters**

EYE ON DEEPFAKES



The government is going to bring a regulation on deepfakes soon that will take help of technology for efficient implementation, Union electronics and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Saturday.

Speaking at the NDTV World Summit, the minister said that chips are key for building AI infrastructure and two semiconductor units, CG Semi and Kaynes, have started production in the country.

Vaishnaw said that there are six AI models getting developed in the country, out of which two will use around 120 billion parameters and will be free from biases like western models have. **PTI**



MIND, BODY & HEART



All you need to know about...

Habits for better sleep

Consistent sleep schedule

One of the most important factors for deep sleep is maintaining a regular sleep routine. Going to bed and waking up at the same time every day helps regulate your body's internal clock, also called the circadian rhythm.

Relaxing routine

How you prepare for sleep can significantly impact its quality. Engage in calming activities before bed, such as reading a book, taking a warm bath, or practicing gentle stretching or meditation. Avoid activities that stimulate your mind.

Cut screens

The blue light emitted by phones, tablets, and computers can interfere with your body's production of natural sleep hormones. Exposure to this light in the evening tricks your brain into thinking it's still daytime, making it harder to fall asleep.

Sleep-friendly environment

Your bedroom should be a sanctuary for sleep. Keep it cool, dark and quiet, as these conditions are ideal for deep sleep. Invest in comfortable bedding and consider blackout curtains or an eye mask to block light. Using earplugs or a white noise machine can help minimize disturbances from outside sounds.

Watch what you eat and drink

What you consume in the hours leading up to bedtime can impact your sleep quality. Heavy meals, spicy foods and caffeine can all interfere with your ability to fall and stay asleep. Alcohol may make you drowsy initially but it disrupts deep sleep cycles later in the night.

Exercise, but not too late

Regular physical activity has been shown to improve sleep quality by reducing stress and promoting relaxation. Even moderate exercise, like walking or yoga, can help you fall asleep faster and enjoy deeper sleep. However, exercising too close to bedtime can increase adrenaline and make it harder to wind down.

—Femina

Have a sweet Deepavali

With these recipes that can bring festive mood to any party



KAJU GULKAND ANARKALI (Cashew Rose Fusion Sweet)

INGREDIENTS

- Cashew nuts (Kaju) – 500g (soaked and ground into paste)
- Gulkand (rose petal preserve) – 3 tbsp
- Sugar – 250g
- Green and pink food coloring – optional
- Cardamom powder – ½ tsp
- Silver vark (optional for garnish)

METHOD

Prepare Cashew Dough:

- Grind soaked cashews into a smooth paste.
- Cook the paste with sugar on low flame until it thickens and leaves the sides of the pan.
- Add cardamom powder and mix well.
- Divide the dough into two parts and color them (green and pink) if desired.

Shape the Anarkali

- Roll out the dough into thin sheets.
- Place a spoonful of gulkand in the center of one sheet and cover with another.
- Shape into small dome-like sweets or use molds for a floral shape.

Garnish

- Apply silver vark and chill for 30 minutes before serving.

Recipe by Ashish Kumar, Executive Sous Chef, JW Marriott Hotel Bengaluru



SHRIKHAND

INGREDIENTS

- Full-fat milk: 2 cups
- Buttermilk: 1 1/2 tbsp
- Powdered sugar (icing sugar): 1 cup
- Nutmeg powder: 1/4 tsp
- Kesar (saffron strands): 4-5
- Warm milk: 1 tbsp
- Pistachios chopped: 1 tbsp
- Cashews chopped: 1 tbsp

METHOD

- Heat milk in a saucepan on low heat for 10-12 minutes. Just before the

milk comes to a boil, add the buttermilk and stir.

- If you don't wish to add buttermilk, simply mix 1 teaspoon of curd with 1 tablespoon of water for an instant version of buttermilk.
- Pour this entire mixture into a bowl and set it aside for 7-8



hours to make dahi.

- Once the dahi is set, hang it in a muslin cloth/ cheesecloth and hang it for 5-6 hours to allow the water to drain. Hung curd will then be formed.
- Next, mix the powdered sugar into the hung curd,
- Place this mixture into a strainer and gently stir with your hand, allowing the shrikhand to drip into a bowl below.
- Alternatively, you can also use a puran yantra, a special masher for this step.
- For flavour, add the nutmeg powder and soaked kesar to the shrikhand and mix well.
- Finally, garnish the shrikhand with chopped nuts and enjoy it cold.

Recipes from Rujuta Diwekar's Mitihara on Audible



TIL GUL

INGREDIENTS

- Sesame seeds: 150 grams
- Peanuts: 2 tbsp
- Coconut dry grated: 30 grams
- Jaggery: 120 grams
- Nutmeg powder: 1 pinch
- Ghee: 1 tbsp

METHOD

- In a shallow pan, roast the sesame seeds until they begin to crackle, then transfer them to a bowl.
- In the same pan, roast the peanuts until they are golden.
- Using a mortar and pestle, crush the peanuts to make a coarse powder. Set this aside in another bowl.
- Roast the grated dry coconut in the same pan until it turns light pink. Transfer it into a bowl immediately to ensure that it

does not burn from residual heat.

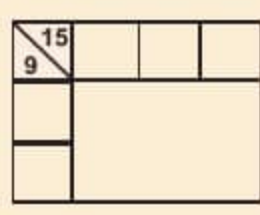
- In a large bowl, combine the roasted sesame seeds, crushed peanuts, and roasted coconut. Add the nutmeg powder as well to this. Mix well and set this aside.
- In the same pan, heat 1 tablespoon of ghee on medium heat for a few seconds and add jaggery. Allow the jaggery to melt and cook it into a syrup.
- Once a syrup has been made, stir this into the prepared mixture and mix well.

- To form the laddoos, grease your palms with 1/2 tablespoon of ghee.
- Take small amounts of the mixture and roll them into medium-sized balls.
- Til gul is now ready to serve.



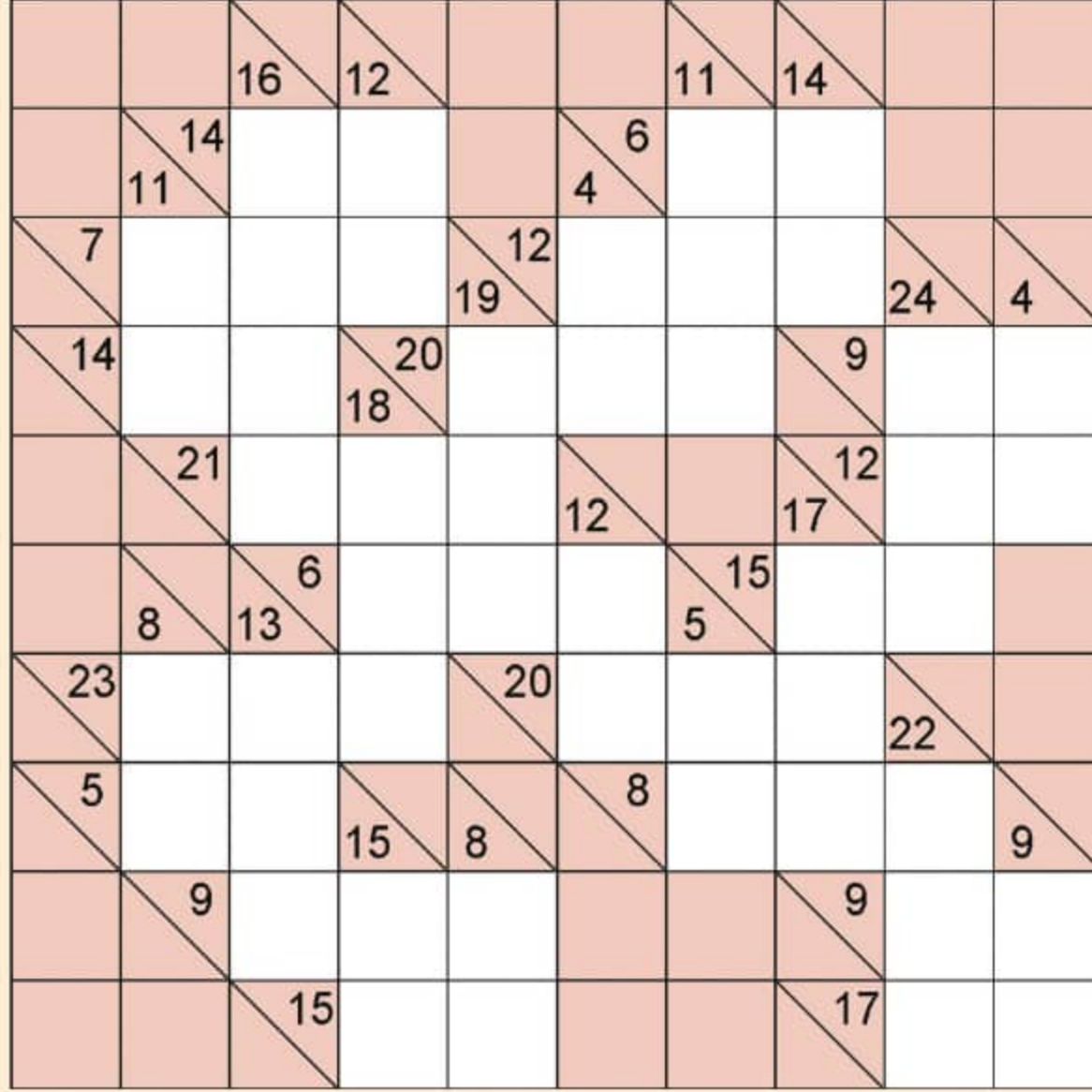
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

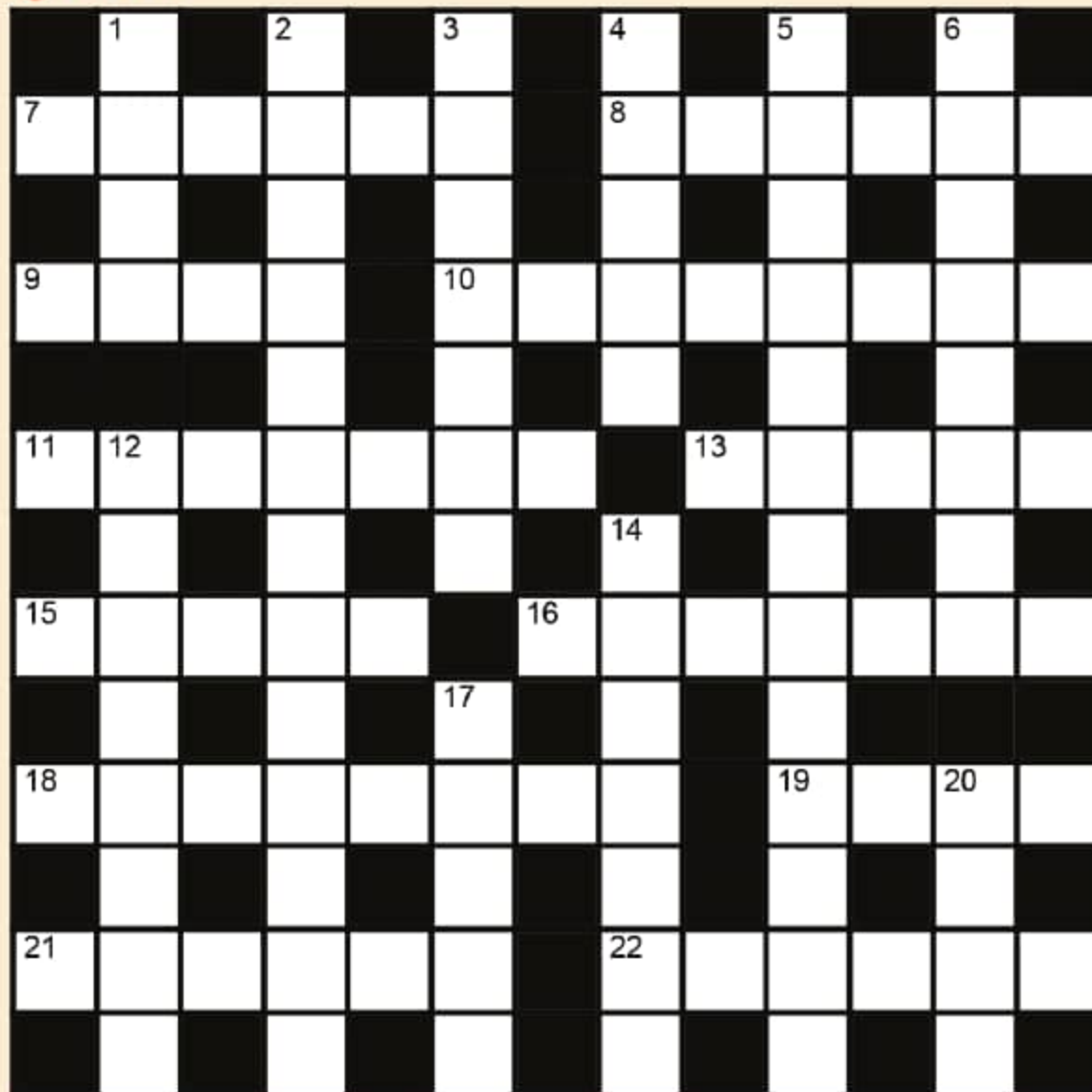


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 7 seeds : peas, beans, etc. (6)
- 8 Retired tennis star _____ Edberg (6)
- 9 Dart or move about swiftly (4)
- 10 It takes _____ to make this world: we meet all types of people in this world? (3,5)
- 11 Not as old (7)
- 13 Den (5)
- 15 Constellation : The whale (5)
- 16 Discoverer of penicillin (7)
- 18 _____ Memorial Hall: Venue for plays and musical performances in Kodandarampura (8)
- 19 Olfactory organ (4)
- 21 Fireplaces (6)
- 22 Mr. Chakraborty of Bollywood (6)

DOWN

- 1 Cut down (4)
- 2 Bearing, enduring or tolerating (7,2,4)
- 3 Postponed (7)
- 4 Biblical hymn (5)
- 5 Purify (13)
- 6 Squealed or complained about (6,2)
- 12 33.33% generally speaking? (3,5)
- 14 Medieval chemistry? (7)
- 17 Wash; clean (5)
- 20 Eschew or avoid (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: S EQUALS Y
OWZEFUX FU PU FGQWHZPOZ
PU QPUUFWO. OW GPZZMH
KEPZ SWR KPOZ ZW TW
KFZE SWRH YFVM, LM
QPUUFWOPZM.



Linemaro

Are you a 90 degree angle?
Because you are looking right



Mindchow

The whole object of travel is not to set foot on foreign land; it is at last to set foot on one's own country as a foreign land



Joke of the day

I wonder sometimes if manufacturers of foolproof items keep a fool or two on their payroll to test things

Loop

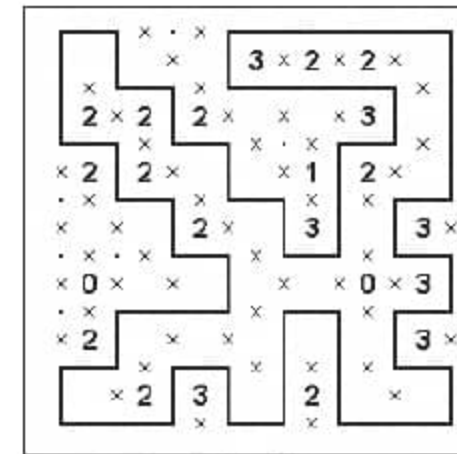
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

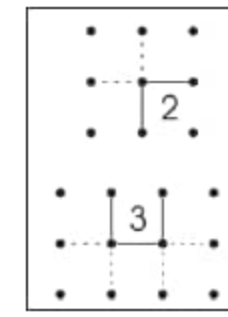
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

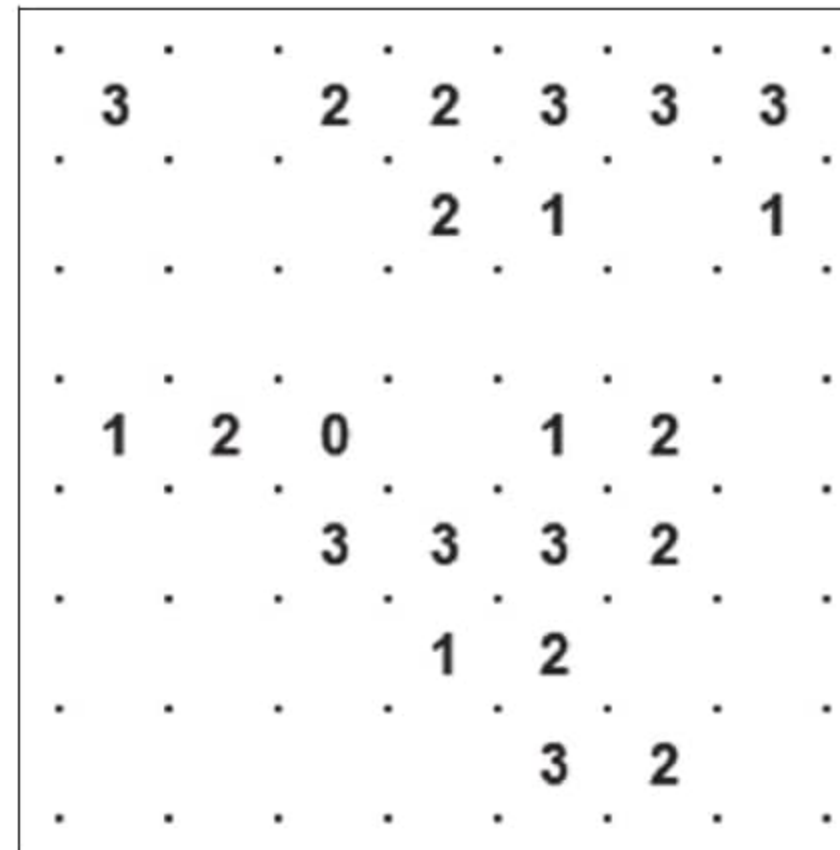
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



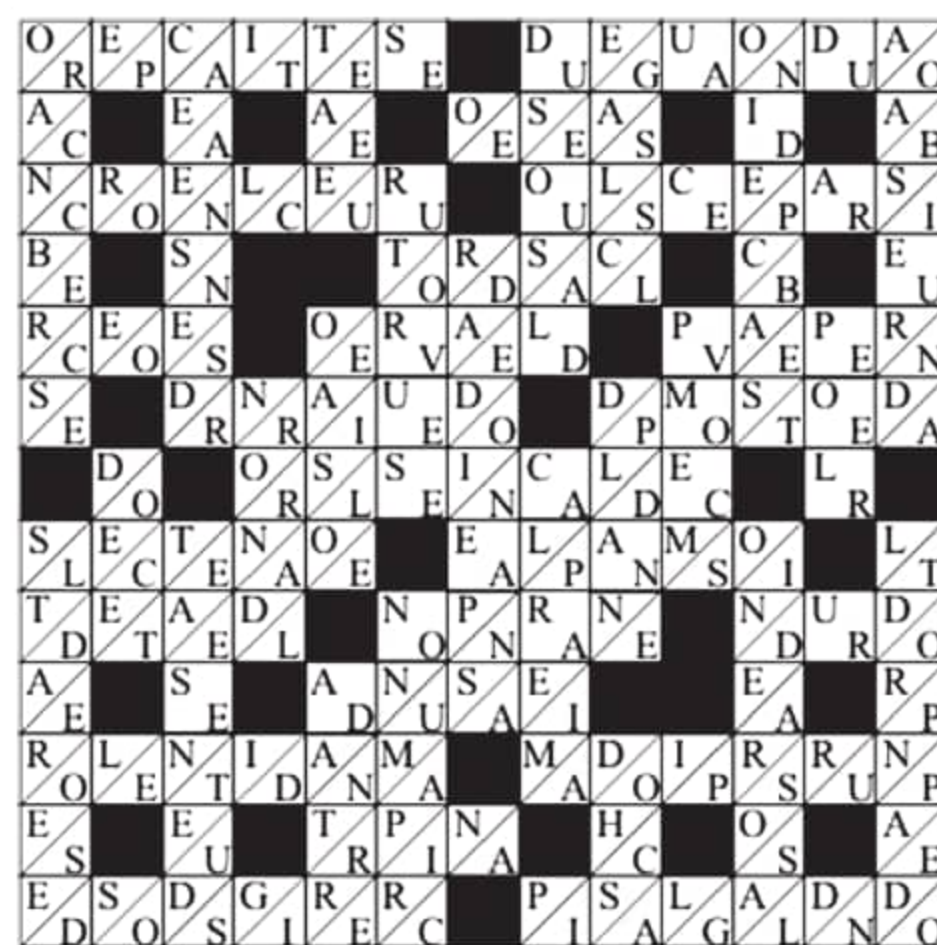
(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed



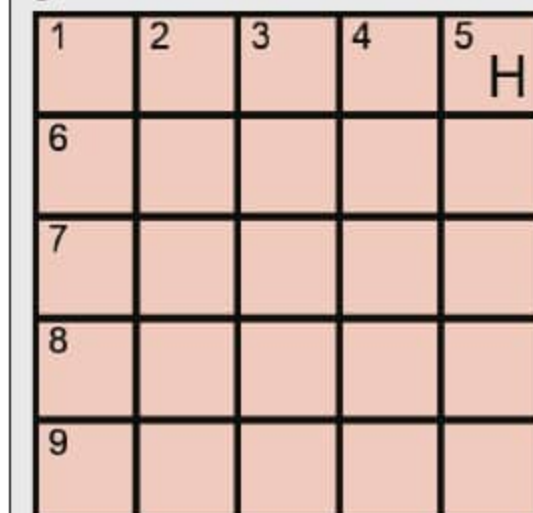
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

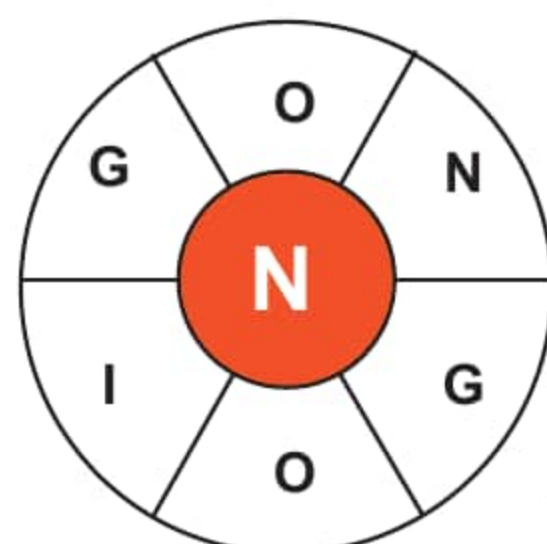
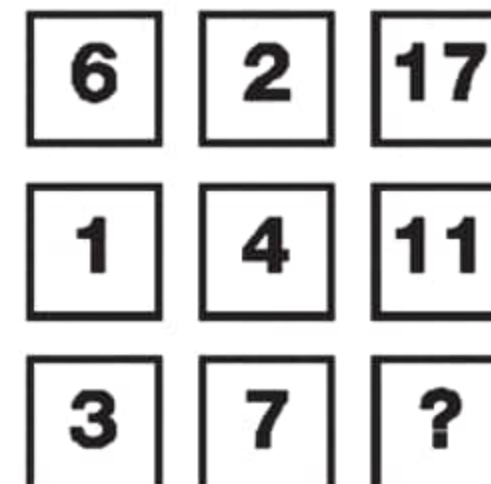
- 1 Buhls; 6 Ree ie;
- 7 Safer; 8 To tec;
- 9 eg She

DOWN

- 1 Of Beg; 2 Cheel;
- 3 A true; 4 I Erse;
- 5 Seth's

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

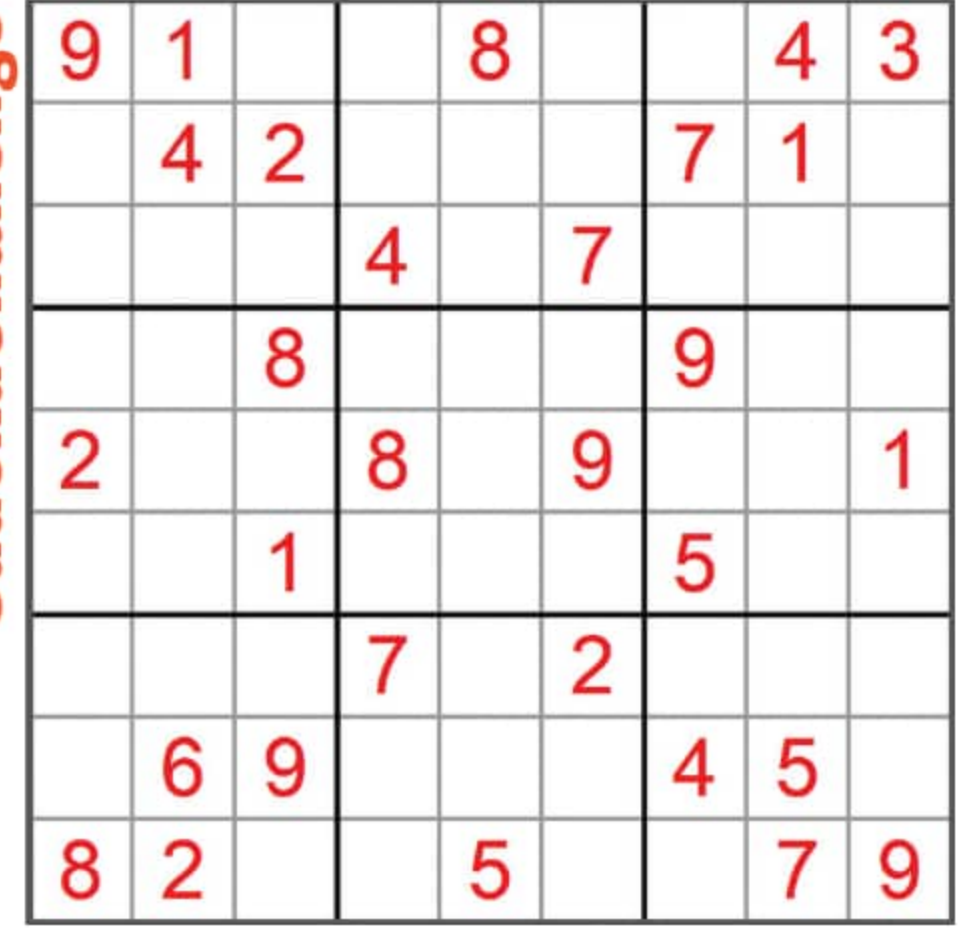


Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 06 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Easy

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

2 3 5 6

Medium

3 4 6 9

Hard

1 1 8 7

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Plate is longer. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Cap is different. 4. Window is smaller. 5. Cup is moved. 6. Tattoo is reversed.

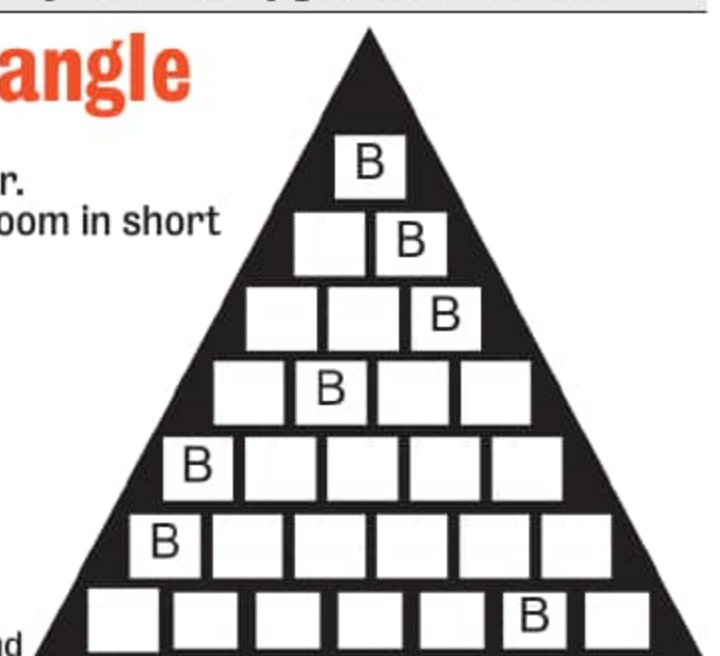
Riddler

Someone has stolen Beethoven's Wig and has put it in one of four locked boxes. The boxes are numbered from 1,2,3,4 in that order. There are four different keys that each has their own color. Use the clues below to figure out which key goes in which box and to find the box where Beethoven's wig is being kept. 1. The green key goes to the third or fourth box 2. The first key is to the left of the fourth box 3. The wig is to the right of the first box 4. The yellow key is to the left of the wig 5. The blue key is to the right of the yellow key and to the left of the green key 6. The red key goes to the first box

Alpha triangle

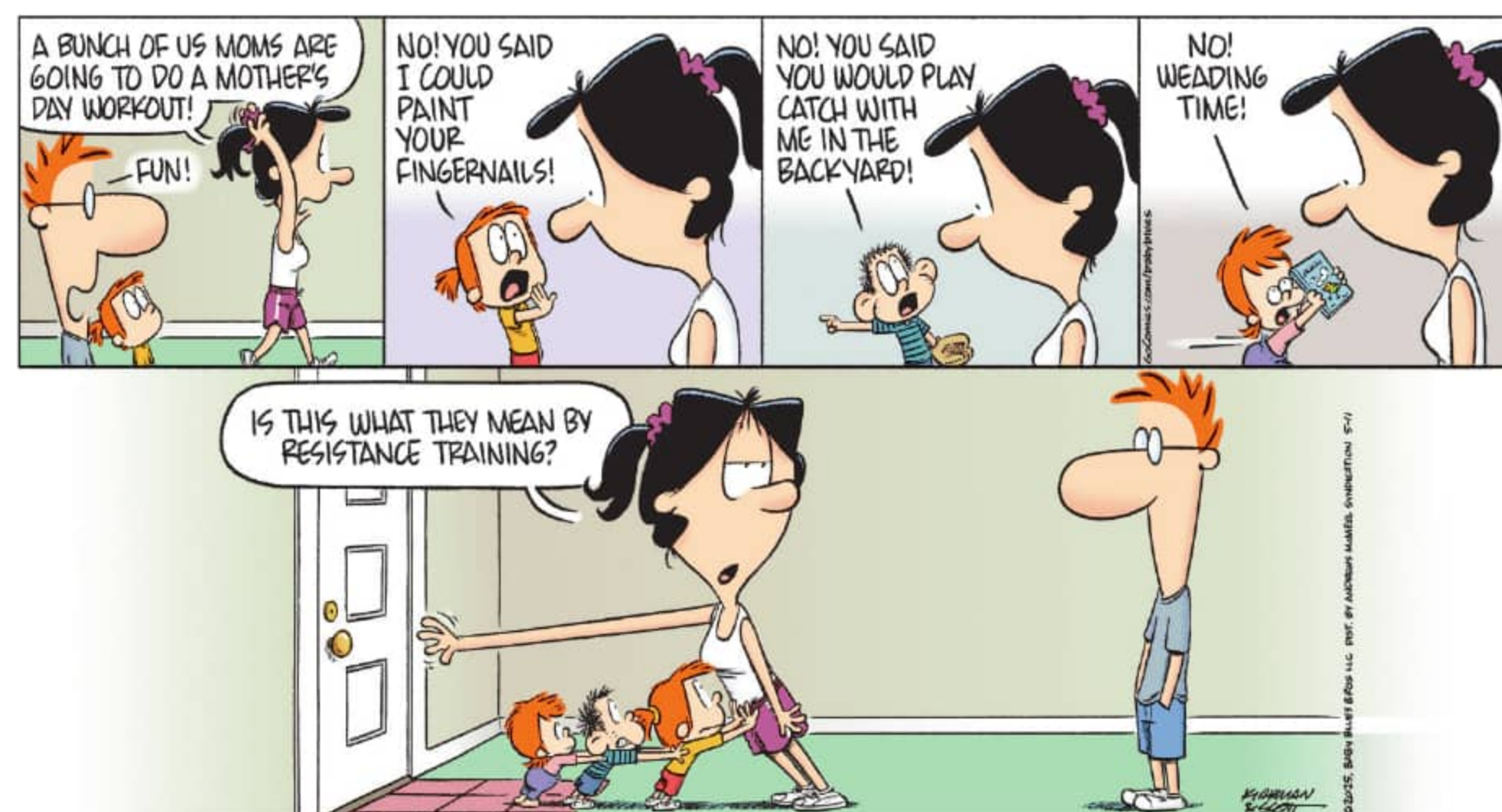
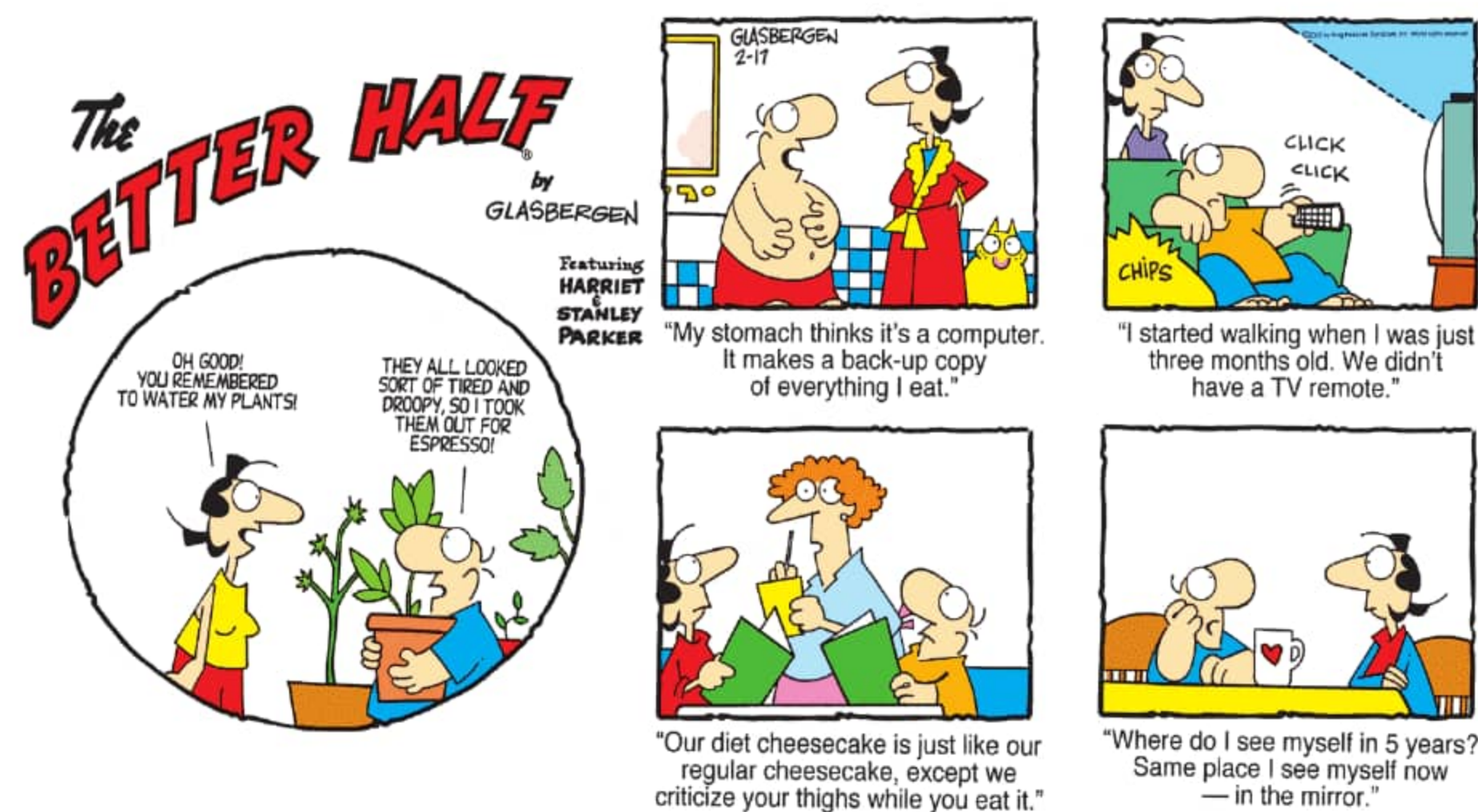
- 1 Second grade
- 2 Able-bodied, abbr.
- 3 Chemist's workshop in short
- 4 Competent
- 5 Strident sound
- 6 Arctic
- 7 Hoop site

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



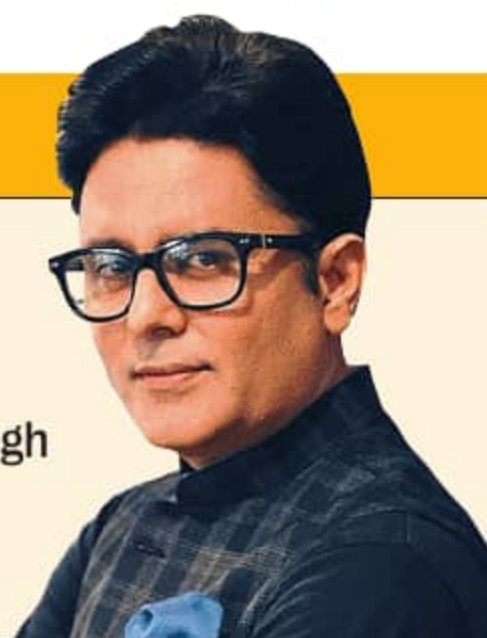
made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Adventure and exploration shape your year ahead. Travel, studies, or new friendships broaden your perspective. Career success follows openness to innovation. Financially, wise risks bring rewards. Relationships deepen through honesty and curiosity. Creative projects flourish with your imagination. Health improves when you embrace activity. By year's end, growth feels expansive, leaving you more confident, inspired, and eager for what's next.

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20



Expressing emotions brings heartfelt responses, especially in love. At work, added responsibilities may seem daunting, yet your strong skills shine through, allowing you to manage tasks effectively with confidence and grace.

Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23



Self-care takes priority, encouraging gentle reflection on recent actions. At work, your contributions earn appreciation and recognition, strengthening bonds with colleagues and superiors while leaving you proud, confident, and deeply motivated.

Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22



Unfamiliar tasks at work demand concentration, offering chances to learn and grow. Postpone travel if possible, yet remain prepared, as exciting opportunities to journey may appear sooner than expected, surprising you.

Taurus Apr 21 - May 20



Today invites reflection on future goals and aspirations. Seek guidance when needed and trust supportive voices. Quiet meditation eases worries, providing peace of mind and clarity for shaping your upcoming journey.

Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23



Guiding someone younger with wisdom or advice brings fulfilment. A pleasant financial surprise may appear, offering opportunities to secure your future. Consider channelling gains toward stability, savings, and long-term financial security.

Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20



Guard your words carefully to avoid unintentional slips. Beyond career concerns, explore hobbies or fresh activities you've overlooked. New experiences will energise you, offering creative inspiration and personal fulfilment.

Gemini May 21 - Jun 21



A past romance may reignite, bringing excitement and charm to your love life. Professionally, involving colleagues in decisions fosters teamwork, ensuring success through collaboration, trust, and clear communication in every step.

Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22



Celebrate your achievements, even if unnoticed by others. Communication peaks today, attracting both colleagues and new acquaintances. Balancing work with social interactions enhances confidence, joy, and personal growth throughout your day.

Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19



Your openness makes connections meaningful. Reschedule tasks if needed, prioritising productivity. Students, beat procrastination by staying disciplined with deadlines. Success flows when focus combines with trust, efficiency, and inner balance.

Cancer Jun 22 - July 23



Your attention to detail leads to impressive results today. Infuse fun into your workplace, boosting morale. Carry positivity home, where family and friends benefit from your joyful, balanced, and uplifting energy.

Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22



Your positivity inspires others, helping dispel their worries. Sharing wisdom and reassurance strengthens relationships, as family and friends look to you for guidance. Today, your optimism uplifts everyone in meaningful ways.

Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20



A workplace attraction might tempt you—proceed thoughtfully. Dedicate time to finishing pending tasks. An hour of exercise strengthens immunity, uplifts mood, and enhances overall wellbeing positively.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE



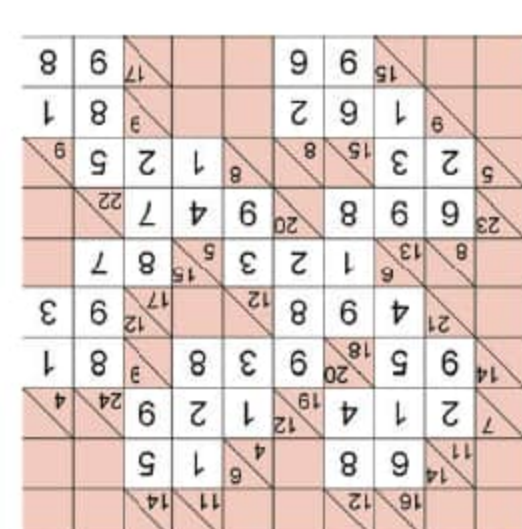
Ananya, Bengaluru



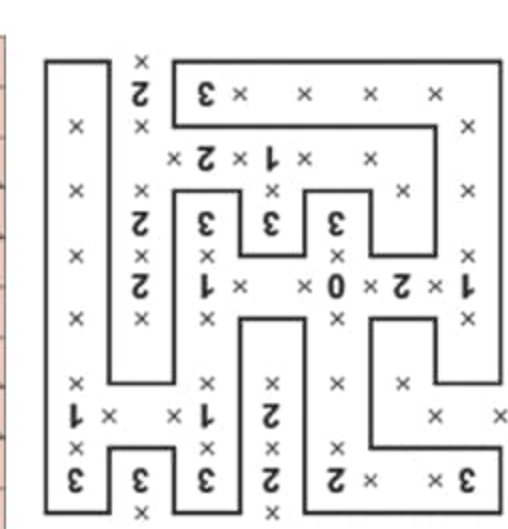
Mugdha, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

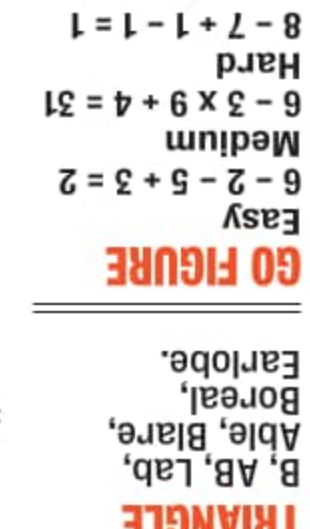
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULL'S EYE



SOLVE IN 1M

Dancing to her own tunes

Malaika says she often finds herself dancing to her own songs at Deepavali parties

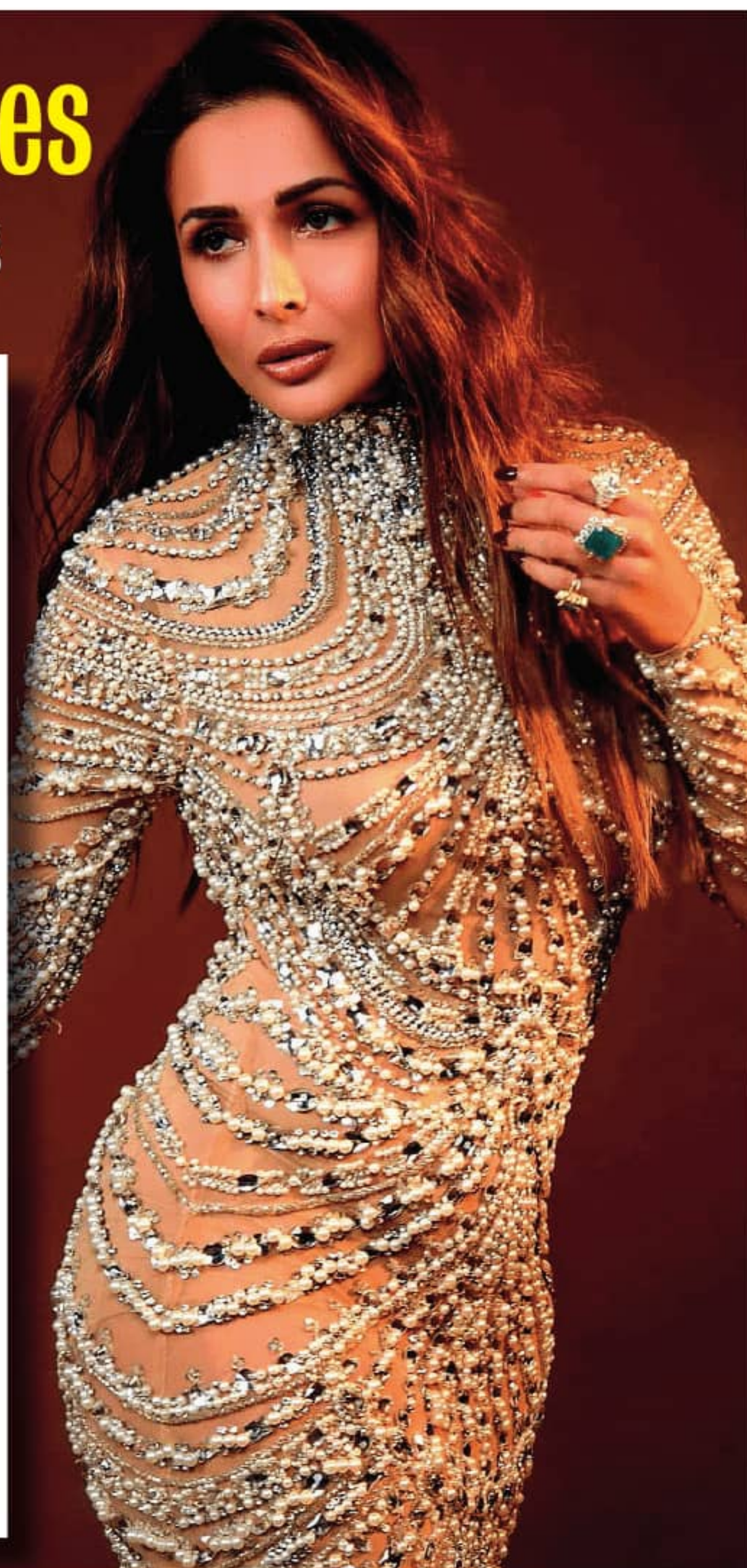
Malaika Arora is lighting up this festive season — quite literally — as she returns to the silver screen after a hiatus with a new song *Poison Baby* for Thama. “I am very excited to be back on the silver screen with this song. For me, saying yes was all about the energy and freshness I felt when I heard the track, it instantly made me want to move! This collaboration just felt right at this moment in my journey. I love working with teams that push creative boundaries. After taking time to focus on myself and other ventures, I wanted my return to be with something that sparks joy and makes me want to have fun in front of the camera again,” she told *Mumbai Mirror*.

Over the years Malaika’s chartbusters — from *Chhaiya Chhaiya* to *Munni Badnaam Hui* — continue to be essential additions to every festive playlist. Ask her how it feels to

have her music soundtrack countless Diwali nights and she beams, “It’s heartwarming. It honestly puts a huge smile on my face. There’s no better feeling for an artist than to see your work become part of people’s memories and traditions. That sense of nostalgia.. knowing families and friends dance to my songs.. it’s priceless, and I’m grateful for it every single day.”

With *Poison Baby* now out, Malaika hopes the number will capture that same celebratory spirit. “I’d absolutely love for it to become the next big Diwali anthem!” she laughs. “I’ve definitely found myself dancing to my own songs at Diwali parties. Sometimes friends and family insist, and it’s all in good fun. Seeing everyone enjoy and groove to those beats is a joy I’ll never get tired of,” she concludes.

—Vinay MR Mishra, ETimes



Sidharth raises the fitness bar

Actor Sidharth Malhotra has redefined fitness goals once again as he showcased his strength by performing a challenging calisthenics move.

Sidharth on Saturday took to his Instagram, where he shared a video of himself from the gym, where he performed an advanced calisthenics move that spotlighted his core and upper body strength. The actor in the video is seen holding onto a horizontal bar, maintaining a horizontal plank position mid-air.

For the caption, he wrote: “One day at a time, pushing new limits everyday #SidFit.”

Actor Sonu Sood took to the comment section and dropped a heart and high ten emoji.

On the acting front, Sidharth was last seen in *Param Sundari* alongside Janhvi Kapoor. Directed by Tushar Jalota, the film told the story of Param, a North Indian boy from Delhi, who searches for his soulmate through an AI app, which leads him to Sundari, a South Indian girl from Kerala.

The actor will next be seen in *VVAN: Force of the Forrest* alongside Tamannaah Bhatia. The upcoming movie, which promises thrilling action and a



gripping storyline, is set to release in theatres on May 15, 2026.

—IANS



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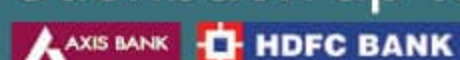


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